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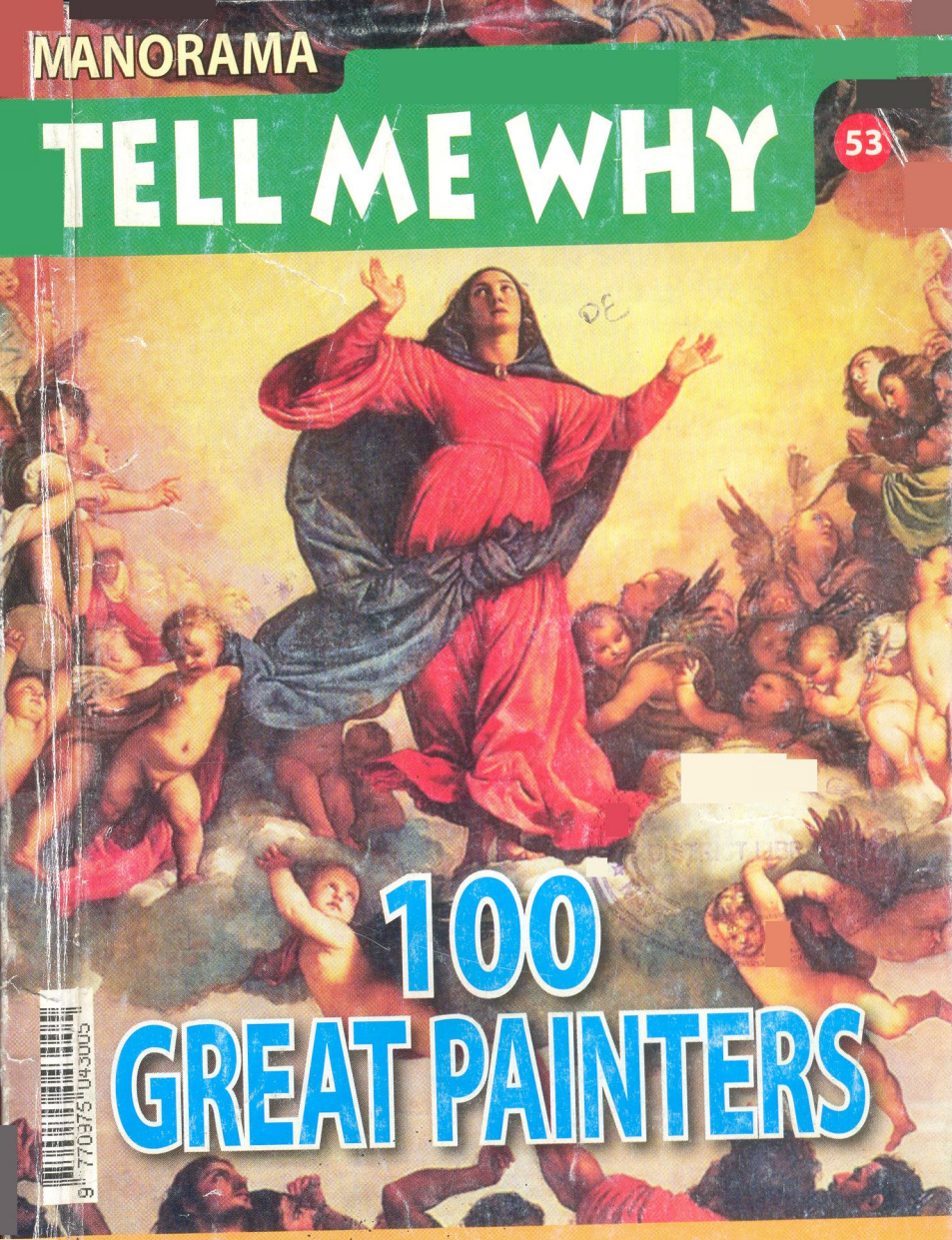

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GREAT PAINTERS

The story of painting goes as far back as 20,000 years ago, to a time when Man had not yet learned to write. He looked around the world, and tried to reproduce what he saw in drawings. Man was just a caveman in those days, and the history of art began in caves.

Art has progressed through the ages. It has organized itself into different styles in terms of form, as well as content. Many painters belong to certain movements, giving different treatment to space, perspective, light and colour. History tells us of many great geniuses who led such movements, and revolutionised the world of art. A few examples are Edgar Degas, Vincent Van Gogh, and Pablo Picasso who created history by initiating great movements like Impressionism, Expressionism and Cubism.

This issue of Manorama Tell Me Why presents to you some of these great painters whose works have stood the test of time. Inevitably, we had to make many reluctant omissions, and many names had to be left out for lack of space. We have not included living painters either.

THE WORLD OF PAINTING

Why is it said that the history of painting began with cave paintings?

We know that early Man lived in caves. He lived mainly by hunting, and gradually, he began to decorate the rock faces in the recesses of caves. Early Man created images of the bison and reindeer which he hunted, and these were the very first paintings ever created.

Prehistoric cave paintings have been discovered in many parts of the world, from Europe and Africa, to Australia. Africa has some of the earliest paintings and rock engravings to have been dated. Nearly 30,000 years old, they were discovered in 1969 on the rock face in a cave in Namibia. But the most numerous, and the most sophisticated of prehistoric paintings are on the walls of caves in Southwest France and Northern Spain.

Why are the paintings at the Grotte Chauvet special?

Grotte Chauvet is a beautiful painted cave in France. It has several very large galleries with more than 300 paintings and engravings that were probably done 32,000 to 30,000 years ago. The paintings show rhinoceroses, felines, bears, owls and mammoths, as well as animals such as owls, hyenas and panthers which have never - or very rarely - been found in previous paintings of this period. In fact, some archaeologists believe that these may be the oldest known paintings in the world, and therefore, they are very special.

Why is Cimabue often regarded as the 'first modern painter'?

Cimabue was a major artist working in Florence at the end of the 13th century. He was born in Florence in 1240 AD. When Cimabue was learning to paint in the 1260's, Italian painters were still copying the style of Byzantine art which always had gold backgrounds. It generally showed saints and angels, as well as Jesus and Mary in very formal, stiff positions, to show how important these figures were, and that they were not like real people. The figures were flat, and very little effort was made to show their muscles, or the shadows that would make them look real.

Cimabue was associated with a style of painting known as gothic art, and he was also an important forerunner of the later international gothic style. He introduced a lifelike treatment of traditional religious subjects, and was also famous for his wall paintings. His most famous work, 'Madonna Enthroned', stood three and half metres high! He is considered by some experts to be the first 'modern painter'.

Why did Giotto di Bordone change the history of painting?

Giotto was an Italian painter, who was a student and contemporary of Cimabue. It is said that Giotto was a shepherd boy scratching pictures of sheep on rocks when Cimabue discovered him. Giotto first worked on mosaics before his interests spread to painting, sculpture, and architecture.

Giotto worked mainly in wall or fresco painting. He is known for beginning to put in natural landscape backgrounds to his painting, as opposed to the plain gold backgrounds favoured by the older Cimabue. His figures were lifelike, and he painted the outdoors with glorious realism and colours. He changed the history of painting by taking the portrayal of people and places to new levels. His art shines with truth and humanity, and his figures are flesh-and-blood individuals who convincingly express joy, anger, fear, horror, and grief.

Why was Simone Martini famous in Europe?

Simone Martini was an Italian painter, who was one of the most original and influential artists of the Sienese school. Simone was born in Siena, a city in West Central Italy, and apprenticed in the workshop of Sienese master Duccio di Buoninsegna, where he developed his style and reputation early. Simone created his own versions of many of Duccio's greatest works. But, in doing so, he applied his own sense of decorative charm to traditional subjects, and soon became known for his unique combination of older Byzantine and French Gothic styles.

Simone became most famous in Siena with the fresco of the Maestà in

the Palazzo Pubblico. Over the succeeding years, his career grew rapidly. Many of Simone's important works show his developing sense of landscape and realism.

Simone was a master in depicting figures and portraits. He paid particular attention to facial features that gave his subjects complex characters and emotions. Figures were always finished with scrupulous attention to detail, and his work is admired to this day both for its spirituality and its realism.

Why was Fra Angelico called by this name?

Fra Angelico was a Dominican monk and famous Italian painter of the early Renaissance Florentine School. Though his name was Fra Giovanni da Fiesole, he earned his nickname through his unusually pious nature. He was called Angelico - which is Italian for 'angelic', because the paintings he did were of calm, religious subjects, and because of his extraordinary personal piety.

One of Fra Angelico's most extensive projects was the decoration of the Dominican Monastery of San Marco in Florence between 1435 and 1445. His skill in creating monumental figures representing motion and suggesting deep space, mark him as one of the foremost painters of the Renaissance. He earned fame for his technical skill, and he never retouched or altered any of his paintings, for he believed that to do so would be going against the will of God.

Deposition of Christ - A Famous Painting by Fra Angelica

What were the contributions of Jan Van Eyck?

Jan Van Eyck was the greatest artist of the early Netherlands school. He held many high positions during his career, including that of a court painter and diplomat. His specialty was oil painting, and he used the medium so skillfully that he was able to capture even the smallest detail. He had a remarkable memory, and it is said that his eye acted both like a telescope, and a microscope! His paintings combine fantasy with reality, and he believed that people, nature, and daily life are fascinating subjects that can be captured in a spiritual manner. He was called 'a prince of painters', by another painter of that period, and was truly one of the pioneers of Flemish realism.

Jan Van Eyck's altarpiece in St. Bavon Cathedral, Ghent

Who were the greatest painters of the Renaissance?

The term 'Renaissance' refers to the revival of art and literature under the influence of classical models in the 14th-16th centuries. It was truly the golden age of painting.

In works from the Middle Ages, saints and Biblical figures are arranged in unnatural, geometric groups, and backgrounds are nothing more than washes of gold. The Renaissance painters depicted the human figure as realistically as possible, often with backgrounds of the natural world. Careful use of light and shadow made figures appear full and real. Renaissance paint-

ers not only portrayed objects with more realism, they often filled their canvases with more objects, all carefully and accurately depicted.

The Renaissance period has produced some of the most famous artists in the history of mankind. They include Brunelleschi, Giotto, Donatello, Botticelli, Masaccio, Andrea Mantegna, Piero della Francesca, Leonardo da Vinci, Raphael, Michelangelo and Titian, along with a host of other artists and intellectuals.

Why is Pablo Uccello considered one of the founders of the Renaissance?

Pablo Uccello was an Italian painter who wanted to present objects in three dimensional forms in order to create a feeling of depth in his paintings. It is said that he would stay up all night, trying to determine the exact vanishing point of an object! He loved using the forms and movement of humans and animals in his paintings. In fact, Pablo Uccello's paintings are very famous for their tangles of horses, riders, lances and pennants, helmets and bits of landscape.

Uccello's greatest paintings were three panels titled 'The Battle of San Romano', 'Night Hunt', and 'The Deluge'. Other paintings are 'portraits of Sir John Hawkins', 'Giotto', 'Brunelleschi', 'Donatello', and 'St. George and the Dragon'. Uccello's paintings resemble life, and confuse us into mistaking illusions for reality. His use of brilliant colours and the fantastic effects left a lasting impact on his viewers, and he was considered one of the founders of the Renaissance movement in painting.

Battle of San Romano

Why was Rogier Van Der Weyden influential in France, Germany, and Spain?

The beginning of the 15th century saw the emergence of a talented generation of painters in the Netherlands. With their exceptional eye for detail, they were an innovative force in Western painting. These artists went down in history as the Flemish painters.

A Famous Altarpiece by Weyden

Rogier Van Der Weyden was a Flemish painter who became famous for the detailed realism that characterizes his works. He settled in Brussels, and soon he was appointed as the city painter, which led to numerous public and private commissions. Rogier operated a large workshop with many assistants, including his son Pieter, who succeeded him as city painter in Brussels. His paintings were dramatic and emotional, and he was often referred to as the 'master of passion'.

Rogier's influence was strong and widespread. In his own lifetime, his paintings were sent all over Europe. Rogier's portraits, usually serene and aristocratic, were also much imitated, influencing Dutch, Spanish and German art.

Why is it said that Tomasso Masaccio started the Italian Renaissance?

Tomasso Masaccio was a renowned painter of frescoes during the Italian Renaissance. 'Masaccio' meaning 'sloppy'

Madonna and Child with Saint Anne - A Famous Work by Masaccio

was a nickname given to him, because his dedication to his painting was so great that he gave little attention to his personal hygiene!

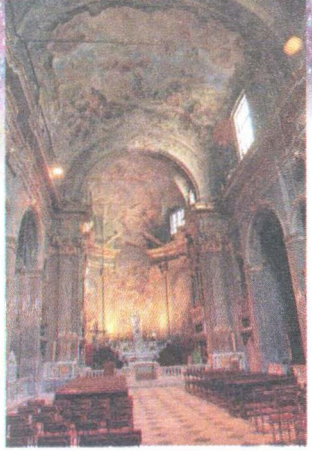
Masaccio is noted for his advanced use of perspective in order to create more realistic figures. He also moved away from the Gothic style of the time to a more naturalistic style. His greatest works were his frescoes done for the Brancacci Chapel in Florence. Masaccio was a major influence on the later Italian Renaissance painters, primarily Michelangelo.

Masaccio managed to paint a few pictures of such enormous impact as to affect not only the whole future course of Florentine painting, but also that of European fine art painting. As a result, he is considered as one of the founding fathers of Renaissance art.

Andrea Mantegna

An Italian painter and engraver, Andrea Mantegna painted heroic figures, often using a dramatic perspective that gives the viewer the illusion of looking up from below. The effect is somewhat the same as looking up from ground level at statues mounted on a pedestal - and this is what made his work so different.

A series of nine paintings, titled 'Triumph of Caesar', that Mantegna started in 1486 shows his interest in imperial Rome. In one famous work, called the 'Camera degli Sposi' or the 'Wedding Chamber', he painted the walls and ceiling of a small interior room, transforming it into an open-air pavilion. Rooms creating this sort of illusion became very popular in the 1600's.



STAR FACT

Chapel For An Artist

Andrea Mantegna died in Mantua in 1506, and received the special honour of having a funeral chapel in the church of Santa Andrea (pictured here) dedicated to him. This famous church also safeguards golden vessels said to hold Earth soaked by the blood of Christ.

Why is Botticelli's painting 'Birth of Venus' so special?

Born in 1445, Sandro Botticelli was an important painter during the Italian Renaissance. He is known for the dreamy look of the people, gods, goddess, and angels in his paintings. The way he painted faces was so special. Each face was different, but full of life and beautiful in its own way.

Botticelli painted many religious and mythological scenes. One of his most famous paintings is the 'Birth of Venus'. This shows the Goddess Venus emerging from a seashell, and the painting is remarkable in that the weight of the body is distributed unequally so that the figure forms one continuous curve. It remains, to this day, one of the greatest masterpieces of all time.

Why was it said that Hieronymus Bosch knew psychology?

Hieronymus Bosch was a painter from the Netherlands who lived during the 15th and 16th centuries. Many of his works depict sin and human moral failings. Bosch who used images of demons, half-human animals, and machines to evoke fear and confusion to portray the evil of Man, produced some of the most inventive fantasy paintings that have ever existed.

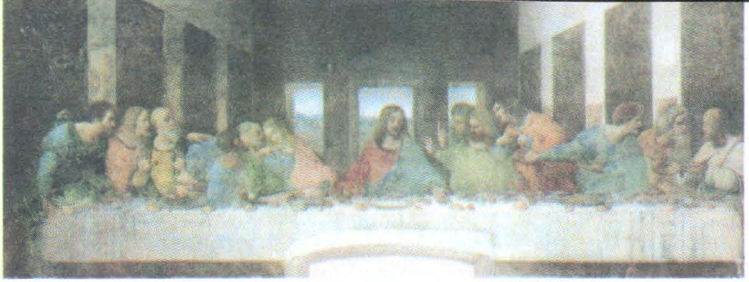
Why is the Mona Lisa unique?

Mona Lisa

The Mona Lisa is the most famous painting in the history of art. Leonardo da Vinci is the creator of this masterpiece. It is said that when he was 14, Leonardo had painted the picture of a dragon that looked so real that it actually scared his father! Leonardo da Vinci is considered one of the greatest artists and thinkers of all time. In addition to his paintings, da Vinci was an accomplished sculptor, architect, musician, engineer, and scientist.

The painting shows a beautiful woman seated on an armchair on a balcony. Behind her, a landscape can be seen. Leonardo has seated her so that the figure seems almost alive. Her smile is mysterious, and nothing in the painting appears fixed. All the shapes seem to sway and flow gently into one another, and the figure and landscape are perfectly harmonized. Experts believe Leonardo painted the Mona Lisa in Italy over a long period beginning about 1505.

Bosch has been called 'the master of the monstrous, the discoverer of the unconscious', for his paintings show a keen insight into human psychology. He depicts life as a continuous struggle between Man and his inner nature, and uses familiar proverbs to comment on the human condition. He was a superb craftsman too, and used to work directly on the canvas with no under painting. At the time of his death, Bosch was internationally celebrated as an eccentric painter of religious visions, who dealt in particular with the torments of hell.

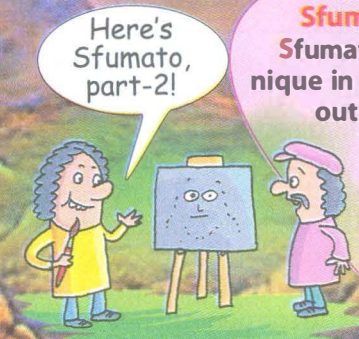


The Last Supper

Why is the painting 'The Last Supper' remarkable?

The Last Supper is a mural by Leonardo da Vinci that was painted on a wall of the dining hall in the Convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan, Italy. The idea was that the monks would be able to focus on the last meal of Jesus while they were eating. The mural is huge, and covers an entire wall. In fact, it is the largest picture that Leonardo ever painted. The painting is laid out in such a way that it looks like Jesus and his apostles were sitting at the end of the dining hall. The disciples are all reacting in horror to the thought that someone at that table would betray their master.

The painting is remarkable, because the disciples are all portraying very human, easily identifiable emotions. You can see that every single element of the painting directs one's attention straight to the midpoint of the composition which is



Sfumato

Sfumato is a painting technique in which there are no harsh outlines present. Figures blend into one another through miniscule brushstrokes, which make for a rather hazy, yet more realistic, depiction of light and colour. An early, wonderful example of sfumato can be seen in Leonardo's Mona Lisa.

Jesus Christ's head.

In this work, Leonardo wanted to experiment with a new style he had invented called tempera. It is a method of painting with pigments dispersed in an emulsion miscible with water, typically egg yolk. The painting took him four years to complete - 1495 to 1498. Unfortunately, Leonardo's new experiment was a disaster. The paint almost immediately began falling off the plaster. Art experts tried to recreate what they thought the painting must have looked like. There is a lot of debate about whether those experts really did 'fix' the painting, or if they changed its meaning by making changes in colour and detail.

Why was Albrecht Durer known as 'the prophet of the Northern Renaissance'?

Albrecht Durer was perhaps the greatest German artist of the Renaissance era. In 1486, he was apprenticed to the painter and printmaker Michael Wolgemut, and began to work with woodcuts and copper engravings as well.

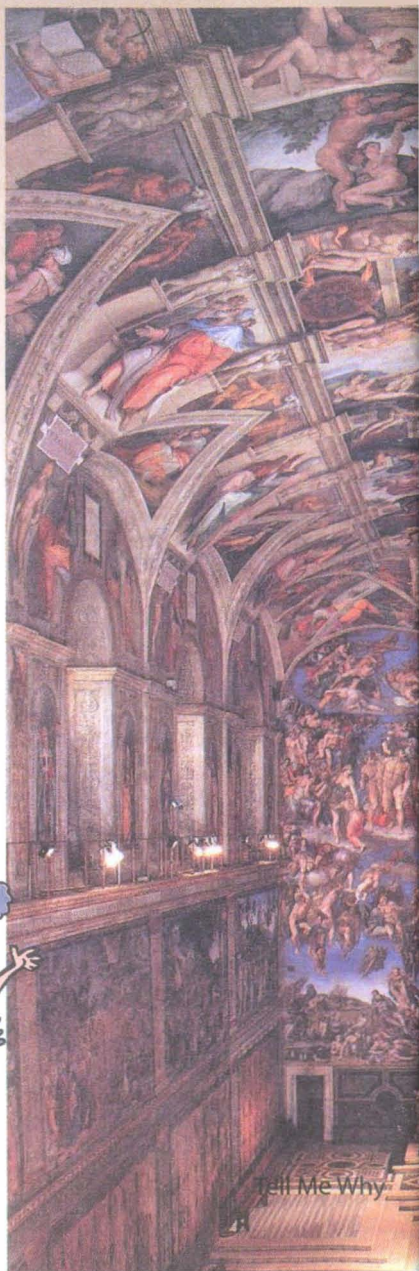
Durer's work includes altarpieces, numerous portraits, and self-portraits, and copper engravings. His still-famous works include the 'Apocalypse woodcuts', 'Knight, Death, and the Devil', 'Saint Jerome in his Study' and 'Melencolia' which has been the subject of extensive analysis and interpretation. His watercolours mark him as one of the first European landscape artists, while his ambitious woodcuts revolutionized that medium.

Durer's prints established his reputation across Europe when he was still in his twenties, and he has been regarded as the greatest artist of the Renaissance in Northern Europe ever since.

Why is Michelangelo's painting in the Sistine Chapel one of the greatest feats ever accomplished?

The Sistine Chapel ceiling paintings (see picture to the right) by Michelangelo were commissioned by Pope Julius II in 1508, and were completed in 1512. It was arduous work that required the artist to constantly paint while lying on his back, atop a scaffold that raised him to within inches of the ceiling. The paintings took four years to finish, and it was physically, artistically, and emotionally a tremendous feat by the artist, who created this masterpiece single-handedly.

The painting covers 520 square metres of the ceiling, and the central area is made up of nine panels showing scenes from the Old Testament. These panels are surrounded by figures from Greek mythology and Hebrew prophets. To this day, these ceiling paintings continue to inspire millions of pilgrims and tourists in Vatican City each year.



What were the contributions of Michelangelo?

Michelangelo was an Italian sculptor, painter, architect, and poet. He was one of the most important artists of the Renaissance. At age 23, Michelangelo completed his magnificent 'Pieta', a marble statue that shows the Virgin Mary grieving over the dead Jesus. He began work on the colossal figure of 'David' in 1501, and by 1504, the sculpture was in place outside the Palazzo Vecchio. After finishing his most famous project, the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, he later painted 'The Last Judgment' on the altar wall of the Sistine Chapel.

Towards the end of his life, Michelangelo became more involved in architecture and poetry. In 1546, he was made chief architect of the partly finished St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. Michelangelo's art was a culmination of the knowledge and revival of the classics during the Renaissance, and his work was the launching point of a new style of art which became known as 'Mannerism'.

Why was Raphael considered a leader of the Italian Renaissance?

Raphael had great talent, and he received early training in art from his father, Giovanni Santi. He also learned new techniques from Leonardo da Vinci and Michelangelo. Beauty and serenity were his great emotional themes.

Raphael painted the Madonna dell Granduca, The Small Cowper Madonna, and The Alba Madonna. He painted Stanza dell Incendio, and four large-scale paintings which were Marriage of the Virgin, Sposalizio, The Crucified Christ with Virgin Mary and Saints and Angels.

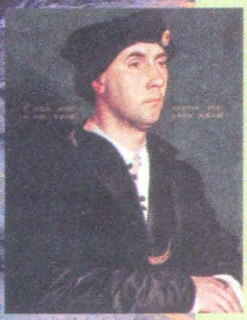
Raphael was a classical perfectionist, and he was thought to be one of the most detailed painters of all portraitists. He was known as a leader of the Renaissance, for he made people think of personality when they looked at his paintings into which he put realistic emotions.

Why was Titian called a 'master painter'?

Titian was the leader of the 16th century Venetian school of the Italian Renaissance. He was recognized early in his own lifetime as a supremely great painter. His work is characterized by pure colours and idealized beauty in nature and humans.

Titian was equally adept with portraits and landscapes, mythological, and religious subjects. What makes him a master painter is his deep interest in colour. Titian's most important innovations were made in portraiture, with his search and penetration in human character.

Titian also transformed the art of oil painting with new techniques that changed the way that Renaissance artists used paints. His work gradually became very free, and he seemed to paint from pure emotion. He felt as if nothing ever needed to be over-deliberated, and anything could be painted over until the artist felt satisfied. This mindset, along with his masterful techniques, made Titian an inspiration to the young artists of his own day, and influenced the great masters of the next century.



Sir Richard Southwell - A portrait by Hans Holbein

Why was Hans Holbein the Younger considered a man of many talents?

Hans Holbein was an outstanding portrait and religious painter of the Northern Renaissance. He was known as Hans Holbein the Younger because his father, Hans Holbein the Elder, was also an accomplished painter. Hans showed his diverse interests early in his career by designing woodcuts and glass paintings, illustrating books, and painting portraits and altarpieces.

Between 1519 and 1526, Hans decorated

Why were Tintoretto's paintings different?

JacopoRobustiTintoretto is best known for his monumental and dramatic religious art. The artist was born in Venice and lived there all his life. Even though his painting is distinguished by great daring, he seems to have led a rather retired life, concerned only with his work, and the well-being of his family.

Tintoretto's most notable works include the early 'St Mark Freeing the Slave', as well as the series of religious paintings he completed for the Scuola di San Rocco between 1564 and 1588. His last picture of considerable importance was the vast 'Paradise'. It was reputed to be the largest painting ever done upon canvas. He also painted 'The Last Supper', which is dramatically different from that which was painted by da Vinci.

Tintoretto's early works adhered quite strictly to the Mannerist tradition of the Venetian Renaissance. However, he later developed his own style that was highly dynamic and extravagant.

many buildings in Basel, including the Town Hall. He also painted the celebrated 'Dead Christ', as well as the altarpiece of the 'Madonna with St. Ursus and a Bishop Saint', and the famous 'Madonna of Burgomaster Meyer' altarpiece. Also of this period are numerous portraits in which he shows his true genius. In 1536, he became court painter to Henry VIII, and made numerous portraits and drawings of the king and his wives.

In addition to his paintings, Hans left to the world magnificent preliminary portrait drawings in which he combined chalk, silverpoint, pen and ink, and other media. Also famous are his woodcuts, and illustrations for Luther's Bible.

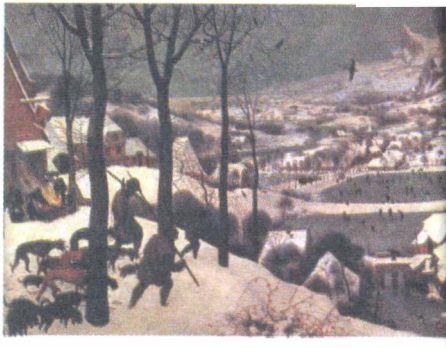
Why was Pieter Bruegel called 'Peasant' Bruegel?

Pieter Bruegel was the first in a family of Flemish painters, and is generally considered the greatest Flemish painter of the 16th century.

Bruegel's paintings, including landscapes and scenes of peasant life are full of zest and fine detail. They also expose human weaknesses and follies. He tried to tell the story behind a painting by combining several scenes into it. He was sometimes called the 'peasant Bruegel' because his paintings were populated by peasants. Bruegel made the life and manners of peasants the main focus of his paintings. His vivid depiction of the rituals of village life give us glimpses of a vanished folk culture, and are a prime source of evidence about both physical and social aspects of 16th century life.

Why are Sofonisba Anguissola's paintings of historical significance?

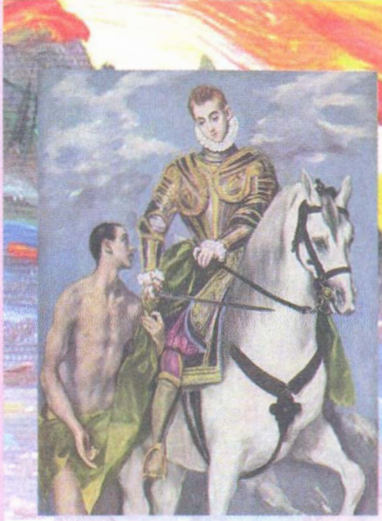
Sofonisba was one of the first women to gain an international reputation as a painter. She made history when she went to study painting under the renowned artist Campi, because at that time, women were not generally accepted into painter's studios. She concentrated on portraits, and her style was unique, and therefore historically significant. She did away with the rigid artificiality of the



A Painting by Pieter Bruegel

times, and captured emotion in her portraits. Many of her self portraits convey her own refined character.

In the 1550's, Sophonisba joined the Spanish court as a lady in waiting to the Queen. There she produced some of her most exquisite works, full of intricate and delicate fabrics, fabulous jewellery, and furs. Her greatest contribution was that she opened the art world up to women painters. She was undoubtedly the most successful woman painter of the Spanish Golden Age.

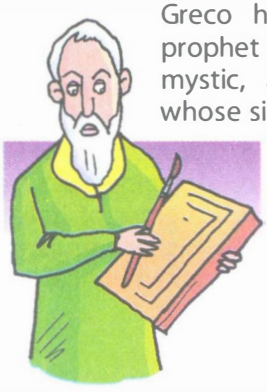


Saint Martin and the Beggar - A Painting by El Greco

Why was El Greco considered eccentric?

El Greco was a Cretan-born painter, sculptor, and architect who settled in Spain, and is regarded as the first great genius of the Spanish School. He was known as El Greco or the Greek, but his real name was Domenikos Theotokopoulos.

El Greco's painting style was different, and it gave rise to many myths about his life and art. He compressed space and twisted forms to create a unique style that was often considered eccentric. One of his greatest works 'The Burial of Count Orgaz ' portrays a nobleman's soul rising to heaven, surrounded by angels and political figures of the times.



Following his death, El Greco's work fell into obscurity and, after its rediscovery in the nineteenth century, was often misunderstood. El Greco has been called a prophet of modern art, a mystic, and even a man whose sight was distorted - all misconceptions that have clouded understanding of his distinctive, but deliberate style.

Why were Caravaggio's religious pictures different?

Caravaggio was probably the most revolutionary artist of his time. An Italian painter, he abandoned the rules that had guided a century of artists before him. His religious paintings were realistic and dramatic, not idealized forms of men and gods. The models chosen for saints were real peasants with wrinkled faces and dirty feet, not beautiful, aristocratic looking men and women. This greatly upset traditional society, and Caravaggio came in for a lot of criticism.

Few artists in history have exercised as extraordinary an influence as this tempestuous and short-lived painter. Caravaggio was destined to turn a large part of European art away from the ideal viewpoint of the Renaissance to the concept that simple reality was of primary importance. He was one of the first to paint people as ordinary looking. He refused to compromise on his style, and by standing firm, he placed religious art in a new light.

The Supper at Emmaus - A Famous Painting by Caravaggio

Why did Peter Paul Rubens gain international fame?

Peter Paul Rubens was a prolific seventeenth-century Flemish painter, who was internationally known for an exuberant style that emphasized movement, colour, and sensuality. He gained fame for his counter-reformation altarpieces, portraits, landscapes, and history paintings of mythological subjects.

Rubens created the fusion of the realistic tradition of Flemish painting with the imaginative freedom and classical themes of Italian Renaissance painting. His paintings often depicted religious and mythical heroes in realistic and exu-

Why are Frans Hals' portraits called 'pleasant art'?

Frans Hals belonged to a respected family in the Netherlands. He was the first great artist of the 17th-century Dutch school, and is regarded as one of the most brilliant of all portraitists. Almost all his works are portraits, and even those that are not, are portrait-like in character.

In 1616, Hals gained the reputation of a master painter with his painting of the St. Jovis Shooting Company, one of the clubs composed of volunteers banded together for the defence of the town. Frans Hals seized the opportunity to show his wonderful skill in detail while painting the cuffs and ruffs worn by these grandees. In all his work, there is an impression of strength rather than of beauty.

Hals puts a smile on the face of nearly every one of his 'leading characters', and in every case, the laugh suits the subject. Hals understood from the beginning how to convey the spirit of a jolly occasion, and how to bring life into paintings of groups. It was the vitality and charm of his paintings that caused his portraits to be called 'pleasant art'.

A portrait by Paul Ruben

berant poses, but he is equally respected for his landscapes and portraits. In the mature phase of his career, Rubens either executed personally, or supervised the execution of an enormous body of works that spanned all areas of painting and drawing.

In addition to running a large studio in Antwerp which produced paintings popular with nobility and art collectors throughout Europe, Rubens was a classically-educated humanist scholar, art collector, and diplomat who was knighted by both Philip IV, King of Spain, and Charles I, King of England.

How do Artemisia Gentileschi's paintings reflect her own experiences?

Artemisia Gentileschi was one of the first women artists to achieve recognition in the male-dominated world of post-Renaissance art. In an era when female artists were limited to portrait painting and imitative poses, she was the first woman to paint major historical and religious scenarios.

A Painting by Artemisia

Artemisia's life was tragic, and it made a strong impact on her painting. Her work became a symbolic attempt to deal with the physical, mental, and emotional traumas that she was experiencing. The heroines of her art are powerful women exacting revenge on male evildoers. Artemisia was without doubt the most important woman painter of Early Modern Europe, by virtue of the excellence of her work, the originality of her treatment of traditional subjects, and the number of her paintings that have survived.

Why was Diego Velazquez called 'the painter's painter'?

Diego Velazquez was a Spanish painter who was the leading artist in the court of King Philip IV. A master of technique, he was highly individual in style. In fact, Diego Velasquez may have had a greater influence on European art than any other painter of the time.

When he was 24, Diego painted a portrait of Philip IV, who became his patron. From then on, except

Why was Nicolas Poussin a great painter?

Nicolas Poussin was the greatest French artist of the 17th century, and the founder of his country's classical school. With him, French painting went beyond France, and became a European affair, mirroring the power of the age of Louis XIV. By the mid-1630's, he began ex-

Echo and Narcissus - A Painting by Nicolas Poussin

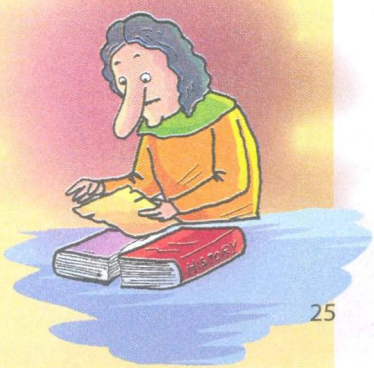
for two trips to Italy, he lived in Madrid. His paintings include landscapes, mythological and religious subjects, and scenes from common life, called genre pictures. Most of them, however, are portraits of the nobles of the court.

Diego was a master realist, and no painter has surpassed him in the ability to seize essential features and fix them on canvas with a few broad, sure strokes. Because of Velasquez' great skill in merging colour, light, space, rhythm of line, and mass in such a way that all have equal value, he was known as 'the painter's painter'.

ploring a serene, classical style inspired by Raphael and antiquity.

Poussin's great passion was history, and he told noble, epic and stirring tales through his art. He made meticulous preparations before starting a painting. He did historical research, trained himself in archaeology and the study of coins, and carefully checked the authenticity of his research. Before painting, he made models from wood and wax, from which he made his preliminary sketches.

Poussin's work predominantly features clarity, logic, and order, and favours line over colour. The finest collection of Poussin's paintings, in addition to his drawings, is located in the Louvre in Paris.



STAR FACT

Libra Veritatis

The Libra Veritatis is a collection of about 200 drawings by the French artist Claude Lorraine. It was compiled by him, and made up in book form as a souvenir of paintings he had disposed of, to guard against forgeries, and possibly containing some outlines for future paintings as well. Claude valued it highly and specially mentioned it in his will.

What was Claude Lorraine's chief contribution to landscape painting?

Claude Lorraine was an influential and successful artist in the seventeenth century. His paintings were picturesque, and full of the rough textures of wild nature with romantic old castles or classical ruins.

Claude created landscapes that were expansive and dramatic. His chief contribution to classical landscape painting was the masterly treatment of light. He often gave the foreground strong contrasts of light and shadow, while the middle distance had less contrast. The far background was rendered even lighter, and with fewer contrasts to give a sense of great distance.

While the subjects of his paintings and drawings were often from the Bible or classical mythology, the mood and atmosphere of the landscape was the real subject. His figures were usually only a minor part of a scene to help set the scale and perspective. Claude's style set the standards for what was worthy of appreciation.

Why is Rembrandt considered a giant in the history of art?

Rembrandt Van Rijn was a Dutch painter, draftsman, and etcher of the 17th century, and a giant in the history of art. His paintings are characterized by luxuriant brushwork, rich colour, and a mastery of chiaroscuro, or the interplay between light and shade.

Rembrandt became the leading portrait painter in Holland, and received many commissions for portraits as well as for paintings of religious subjects. In addition to portraits, Rembrandt attained fame for his landscapes, while as an etcher, he ranks among the foremost of all time. When he had no other model, he painted or sketched his own image. It is estimated that he painted between 50 and 60 self-portraits.

The Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Nicolaes Tulp - A Painting by Rembrandt

His landscape paintings are highly imaginative, rich portrayals of the land around him. Rembrandt was at his most inventive in the work popularly known as 'The Night Watch' painted in 1642. The canvas is brilliant with colour, movement, and light.

Rembrandt's Self portrait

Rembrandt is generally considered one of the greatest painters and printmakers in European art history, and the most important in Dutch history. His contributions to art came in a period that historians call the 'Dutch Golden Age'.

Why is it believed that Johannes Vermeer used the 'camera obscura' for his paintings?

Johannes Vermeer was a Dutch painter who created some of the most exquisite paintings in Western art. Of the 35 or 36 paintings generally attributed to him, most portray figures in interiors. All his works are admired for the sensitivity with which he rendered effects of light and colour, and for the poetic quality of his images.

During the late 1650's, Vermeer began to experiment with the 'camera obscura'. This was an optical device that could project the image of sunlit objects placed before it with extraordinary realism. It is believed that Vermeer would first sketch the projected image in black and white. He would then paint the finished version over it slowly and painstakingly.

One of Vermeer's most popular paintings

There is still much speculation as to whether Vermeer did use a camera obscura, or not. But even if he did, it does not challenge Vermeer's genius. Rather, it shows how, like many artists, he experimented with new technology to develop his style and choice of subject matter.

Why is Jean Antoine Watteau considered the forerunner of the Impressionists?

Jean-Antoine Watteau was a French painter whose brief career spurred the revival of interest in colour and movement. He invented a new type of painting, called the 'fete galante'. These large scenes of well-to-do men and women enjoying themselves outdoors allowed him to showcase his talent for conveying the delights and enchantments of nature. Some of his best known

Chairing the Member - A Painting by William Hogarth

Why was William Hogarth different from other painters of his age?

William Hogarth was one of the leading British artists of the first half of the 18th century. His paintings are witty and full of an earthy realism, and are a social commentary on the morals of the time, as well as being works of art in their own right.

Hogarth brushed aside the great mythological, religious and historical themes, preferring subjects drawn from quick and often malicious observations of those around him. He ensured that his art reached the greatest number of people possible, and to 'educate their taste', he had his works reproduced as engravings. Though Hogarth had the gift of telling a story through his paintings, peoples' interest lay in the details and amusing incidents found in his works rather than in their beauty.

William Hogarth paved the way for an English school of painting which had hitherto just not existed. Self-taught, and with no pupils, he became one of the most important English painters of the eighteenth century.

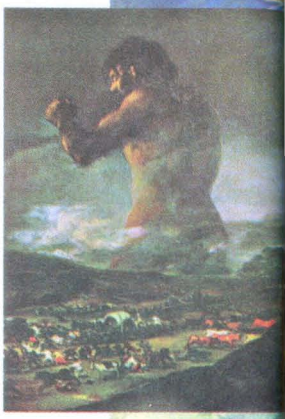
subjects were drawn from the world of Italian comedy and ballet.

Jean Antoine showed artistic ability at a young age. He went to Paris in 1702 with the hope of entering a studio where he could refine his art. Around 1708, his small and human battle paintings attracted attention of perceptive dealers and collectors. He was invited by the financier Crozat to live and work in his home, filled with Venetian and Flemish paintings and drawings, and it was there that he developed the fete gallante.

During his 15-year artistic career, Antoine dealt with a wide variety of subjects and techniques, and is now regarded as a forerunner of the impressionists in his handling of colour and study of nature.

Why was Francisco De Goya considered a tragic and analytical painter?

Francisco De Goya is regarded as the most important Spanish artist of the late eighteenth, and early nineteenth centuries. Over the course of his long career, Goya's paintings, drawings, etchings, and frescos moved from the jolly and light-hearted, to the deeply pessimistic and searching.



The Colossus - A Painting by Goya

Goya entered the world of art when he won the second place in a painting competition held in Italy. His first commission in Spain was in 1774 for 43 cartoons for the tapestries for the Royal factory at Santa Barbara. He became the official painter of King Charles III when he was 39 years old.

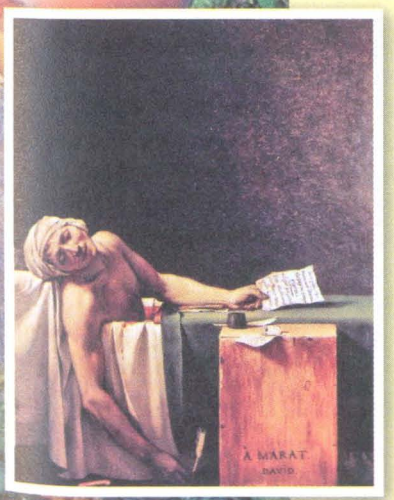
In 1792, Goya became deaf. As a result, his style of painting also changed. His work became tragic and analytical. He introduced a world of witches, ghosts, and fantastic creatures that invade the mind, particularly during dreams, and nightmarish visions symbolizing a world against reason. His brush strokes were now bold and swift, and the colours he used were grey, black, brown, and red. Some of the most graphic images to come out of the brutal Peninsular War were drawn by Goya.

In expressing his thoughts and feelings frankly, as he did, Francisco De Goya became the pioneer of new artistic tendencies, and is considered by some to be 'The Father of Modern Art'. His works changed the way artists would interpret the world.

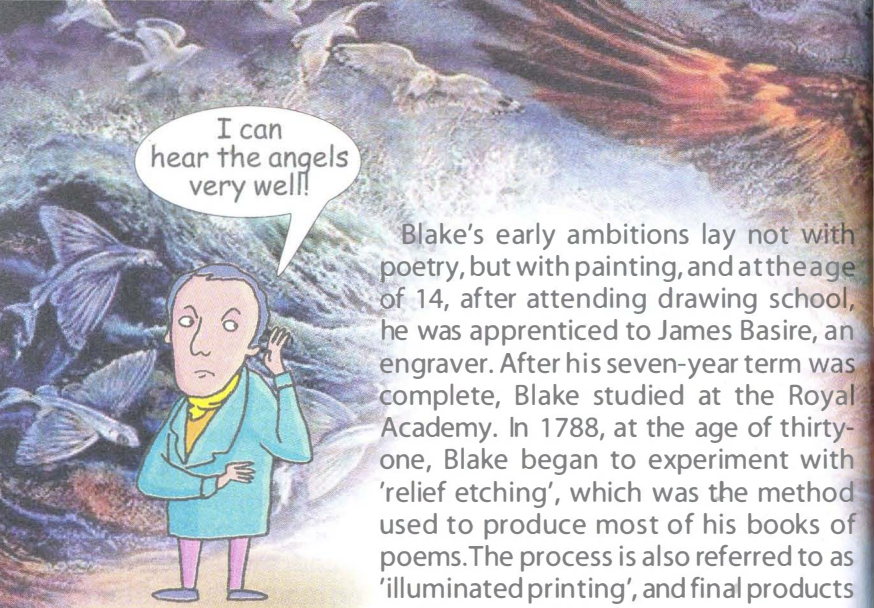
Why is it said that Jacques David influenced moral philosophy in France?

Jacques-Louis David, a French painter, was a supporter of the French Revolution, and one of the leading figures of the style known as Neoclassicism. He spent six years in Rome, and it was during this period that he abandoned the grand manner of his early work, and turned to a stark and highly finished style. His works now upheld the antique virtues of self-sacrifice, devotion to duty, honesty, and austerity, and they had a strong moral influence on the times he lived in.

David later became an active supporter of the French Revolution, and was effectively a dictator of the arts under the French Republic. Later, he was imprisoned and on his release, he became a supporter of Napoleon I. It was at this time that he developed his 'Empire style', notable for its use of warm Venetian colours. David had a huge number of pupils, making him the strongest influence in the French art of the 19th century.



The Death of Marat
- David's Greatest Work

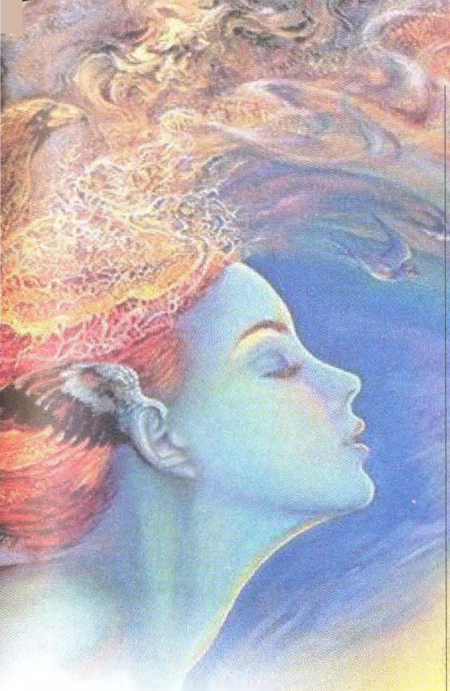


Why was William Blake inspired to work on religious themes?

William Blake was an English artist, mystic, and poet. As a child, he was prone to fantastic visions, including seeing God, and angels in a tree. He would later claim that he had regular conversations with his deceased brother Robert. It was soon apparent that Blake's visions would be his inspiration throughout his life.

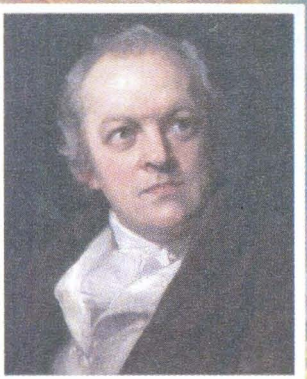
Blake's early ambitions lay not with poetry, but with painting, and at the age of 14, after attending drawing school, he was apprenticed to James Basire, an engraver. After his seven-year term was complete, Blake studied at the Royal Academy. In 1788, at the age of thirty-one, Blake began to experiment with 'relief etching', which was the method used to produce most of his books of poems. The process is also referred to as 'illuminated printing', and final products as 'illuminated books', or 'prints'. Blake used illuminated printing for four of his works. Each of his illuminated books

Newton - A Famous Painting by William Blake



was thus a unique work of art, and a radical break with tradition.

Blake's paintings focused on religious subjects, the most famous being the illustrations of the 'Book of Job.' He used rigid geometrical patterns, and emphasized line and colour as a means of expression. His life is summed up by his statement that 'The imagination is not a state : it is the human existence itself'.



William Blake

William Blake's Style

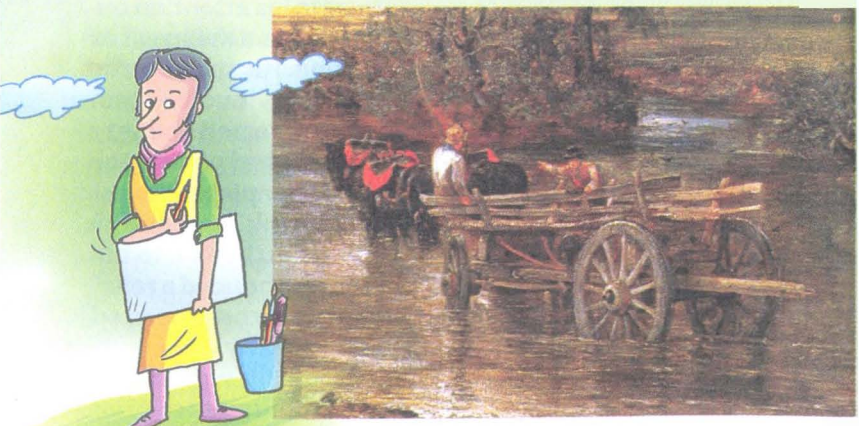
In the realm of imaginative painting, William Blake stands quite alone. His training as an engraver must have helped to concentrate his attention on pure line as a means of expression. His special printing process involved transferring reversed images of his words and pictures on to a copper plate with acid resistant ink. Once the picture was etched on to the plate, it produced a relief image that could be used to make many copies. Blake and his wife then hand coloured each print.

Why was John Constable's style special?

John Constable was one of the great English landscape painters of the 19th century. He developed his own style of painting by first sketching in pencil, ink wash, and occasional watercolours, and also by making many notes on light and atmosphere at the same time. Only after these preparations were complete, would he actually start painting.

Many of Constable's sketches capture unusual effects of lighting - such as a double rainbow, or the weather. For example, 'Study of Clouds' records the skies over London after a storm. In fact, the many studies he painted of the sky testify his continual interest in the drama that sky could give rise to in a painting.

Constable developed a unique style combining detailed studies of nature with a deeply personal vision of the countryside round his boyhood home. While most landscapists of the day travelled extensively in search of picturesque scenery, Constable never left England. His unique ability to combine scientific knowledge and keen observation with poetry and originality made him different from traditional landscape painters.



A Landscape Painting by John Constable

Caspar David Friedrich

Why is Caspar David Friedrich considered the most important painter of the German Romantic Movement?

Caspar David Friedrich was a landscape painter of the 19th century German Romantic movement, of which he is now considered the most important painter. More than any of his contemporaries, he captured the sense of mysticism and melancholy typical of Northern Romanticism. His main interest as an artist was nature. Friedrich's landscapes are based entirely on scenes from Northern Germany, and are beautiful renderings of trees, hills, harbours, morning mists, and other light effects based on his close observation. Many of his scenes are peopled by small, anonymous figures that stand in awed contemplation of the limitless expanse of nature.

Though Friedrich studied in Copenhagen, he chose to live in Dresden, and his beautiful surroundings inspired many of his exquisite landscapes.

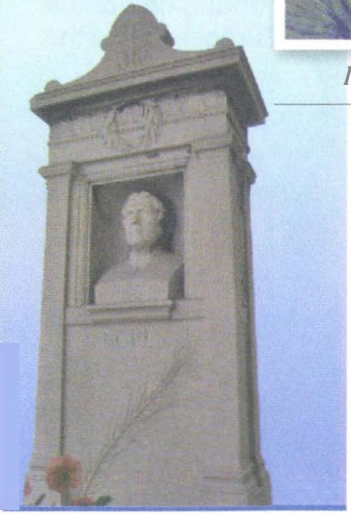
For nine years, he worked only in pencil or sepia, and when he switched to oil paints, he created a sensation with his work 'Cross in the Mountain'.

Some of Friedrich's best-known paintings are expressions of a religious mysticism. He was, without doubt, one of the greatest exponents in European art of the symbolic landscape.

'The Stages of Life' - A Painting by Caspar David Friedrich

Napoleon 1- A Painting by Ingres

Ingres

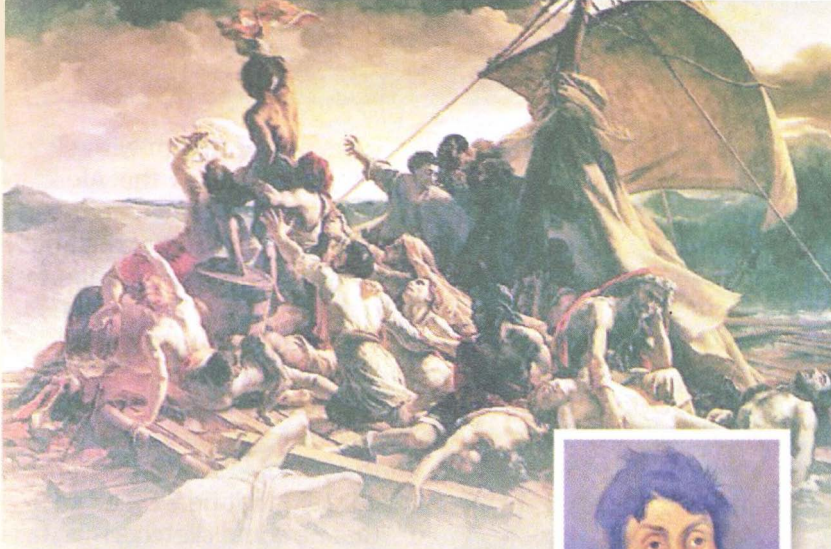


The Tomb of Ingres

Why was Jean Auguste Dominique Ingres considered a superb portrait painter?

Jean-August-Dominique Ingres was a French neo-classical painter, and one of the major portrait painters of the 19th century. Ingres felt that drawing was the very heart of painting, and he drew and redrew whatever he was to paint until he understood all its elements. Though he valued history painting above all else, he also often produced portraits, some of the best of which are drawings.

Ingres lived in Rome from 1806 to 1820, and it was there that he developed his extraordinary gifts for drawing and design. He helped support himself by making portrait drawings of visitors to Rome. These drawings are skilful, concise masterpieces. Ingres's outstanding use of place, light, and character in these seemingly casual portrait drawings make these works masterpieces in their own right. Ingres' greatest achievement, perhaps, were his portraits of women. Though not all Ingres' models were beauties, he found something special about each one of them.



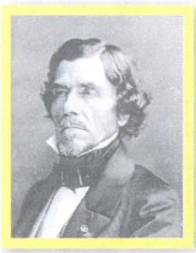
Theodore Gericault

Why is Theodore Gericault's 'Raft of Medusa' a truly innovative painting?

Theodore Gericault's most famous work is 'Raft of the Medusa', a turbulent painting of men at sea who are shipwrecked and dying. The event depicted is the aftermath of the 19th century sinking of a ship called the Medusa. From an original group of 149 on board, there were only 15 survivors after nearly two weeks at sea on this raft. A later inquiry uncovered gruesome stories of murder and cannibalism during the 12 days adrift with no food and little hope of rescue. In order to reproduce the horror, Gericault studied corpses and interviewed the survivors. The Raft of the Medusa is enormous, measuring over 4.9 metres by 6.9 metres. In fact, its size was one of the things that made it a sensation when it was unveiled in 1819. It is a truly innovative painting because it dealt with an actual happening of the time, and also in its construction. Gericault was extremely daring in organizing his painting around a pyramid, at the top of which the figure of the Negro is seen, waving a rag. A rescue ship is faintly visible on the horizon, and the whole painting reflects the hope among the survivors of being saved.

Why are the works of Eugene Delacroix remarkable?

Eugene Delacroix was the most important of the French Romantic painters. His inspiration came chiefly from historical or contemporary events or literature, and a visit to Morocco in 1832 provided him with further exotic subjects. His remarkable use of colour was to later influence even modern artists



Eugene Delacroix

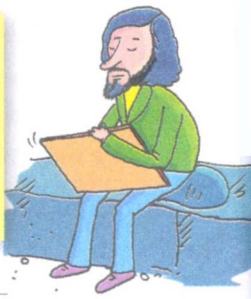
The colours and violent contrasts of North Africa inflamed his work. He became one of the greatest wildlife painters, and made his painted animals seem alive. He loved natural beauty in the movements of animals, and spent time at the zoo sketching tigers, lions, horses, and any other animals that caught his imagination. His experiences in Morocco and Algiers provided him with exotic subjects such as the Algerian women who enchanted him. He sketched them at their daily activities, noting the minutest details of colour and design. His expressive works also depicted historic, religious and literary themes.

Delacroix was very proud of the speed at which he worked. It is said that he worked so fast that he could sketch a man falling out of a window in the time it took for the man to hit the ground! Now isn't that truly remarkable?

Why is it said that Jean Francois Millet endowed rural life with dignity?

French painter Jean-Francois Millet was one of the founding members of the Barbizon Landscape School in France. He was the son of a small peasant of

Millet

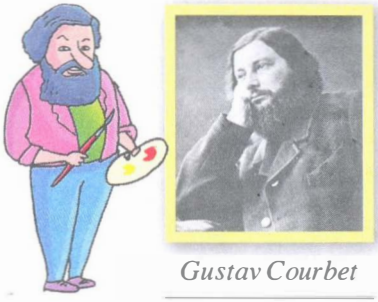


Gréville in Normandy. His early work comprised of conventional portraits and fashionable eighteenth century pastoral scenes. However, he gained fame for his depiction of the life of the peasants of that time.

Millet painted labourers going about their daily business. He made the countryside look dignified, and his peasants look heroic. In 'The Angelus', his best known work, Millet shows a hard working couple at work in the fields with their heads bowed before the magnificence of nature. Among the French artists of the 19th century, he stands out as a man who found inspiration in the everyday life of ordinary people.

Why is it said that Gustav Courbet believed in artistic freedom?

Gustav Courbet was an artist who led the Realist movement in 19th century French painting. He believed that every artist should be his own teacher. By 1850, he was shocking the public with the style known as Realism, and with the scale of his paintings. In December of that year, he exhibited three huge canvases of peasant life.



Gustav Courbet

They were vast, and normally such enormous size was reserved for history paintings of more 'important' subjects.

One of Courbet's most important works is 'Burial at Ornans', a canvas recording an event which he witnessed in September 1848. This painting of the funeral of his grand uncle became the first masterpiece in the Realist style. People who had attended the funeral were used as models for the painting.

Courbet worked with social issues, and focused on the peasantry and the grave working conditions of the poor. He believed that the Realist artist's mission was the pursuit of truth, and that by doing so, an artist could improve social conditions and inequality. Courbet's particular kind of realism influenced a number of artists who followed him.

Why are Gustav Moreau's paintings different?

French artist Gustav Moreau is known for his strange and mystical works, often portraying scenes from mythology or religion. Moreau painted for a number of years without exhibiting his work, but during this time, he developed his unique style. He spent many hours studying Persian, Indian, and Japanese prints and from them took motifs, which he used to create his own vision of myths and religions. He became one of the leading artists of the Symbolist style.

Gustav Moreau

Moreau emphasized the morbid side of life and death. His landscapes often showed steep and rocky cliffs with twisted trees. He had a feeling for the bizarre and developed

Why is Frederic Edwin Church associated with nature?

Frederic Church was an American painter who belonged to the Hudson River School of landscape painters. He followed a pattern of travel, hiking, and sketching from spring through autumn, and spent winter in New York, painting. Church was inspired by the fascinating variety and complexity of nature and believed that the close study of nature was essential to grasp unique underlying truth of the Universe.

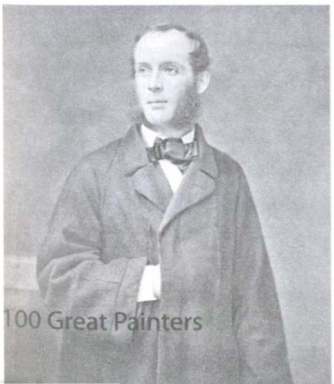
In 1853 and 1857, he visited South America, and made many sketches of tropical and Andean scenery, which he afterward developed into large pictures. Several years later, an expedition to the coast of Labrador gave him material for his great picture entitled 'Icebergs', which attracted much attention on its exhibition in London in 1863. In 1866, he visited the West Indies, and two years later Europe and the Holy Land, which

a style that is highly distinctive in subject and technique. He was a withdrawn person who lived alone. When he died, on the 18th of April 1898, he left to the state his house, containing about 8000 pictures, water-colours, cartoons and drawings, which form the Moreau gallery. It is considered one of the best organized collections in Paris.

resulted in important works depicting nature.

Church made full use of his sense of the dramatic when depicting grandiose scenery. His most famous painting is 'The Andes of Ecuador'.

Frederic Church



Why was Dante Gabriel Rossetti known as a romantic painter?

Dante Gabriel Rossetti was a co-founder of the Pre-Raphaelites, a group of English painters and poets who hoped to bring to their art the richness and purity of the medieval period. He was both a poet and a painter. Romantic love was his main theme. His first paintings were based on religious themes with elements of mystical symbolism. They were 'The Girlhood of Mary Virgin' and 'Ecce Ancilla Domini'.

Dante Gabriel Rossetti

Rosetti painted only one type of woman who became known as the 'Rosetti girl'. In most of Rossetti's early pictures his ideal ladies were portraits of his wife, the beautiful Elizabeth Eleanor Siddal. He had met her in 1850, and they married in 1860 when she was already in poor health. After his wife died 1862, Rossetti buried with her the only complete manuscript of his poems. The manuscript was recovered seven years later and published in 1870. It included most of his best verse and established his reputation as a poet.

The Rossetti Girl

Rossetti always drew women with sad faces, long necks, flowing hair and dark protruding eyes. The hair colour differed from painting to painting but the face remained essentially the same, and soon a woman with this type of face became known as 'The Rossetti Girl'.

● *K.P. Sukumar*

Why was Camille Pissaro considered a major member of the French Impressionist movement?

French painter Camille Pissaro was one of the major members of the style of painting called French Impressionism. This was a major movement, first in painting, and later in music, that developed chiefly in France during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The French Impressionists were a group of artists who shared a set of similar approaches and techniques. They tried to record accurately and objectively what they saw in terms of light and colour.

Pissaro painted a wide variety of subjects including cityscapes, still life, portraits, landscapes, scenes of peasants.

Pissarro progressed from dark landscapes, to brighter Impressionism. He often chose high viewpoints, painting a city landscape for example, from a top window. Although Pissarro never sold his paintings for much during his lifetime, today they fetch millions of dollars in art auctions.

Pissarro

Why was Manet considered an experimental artist?

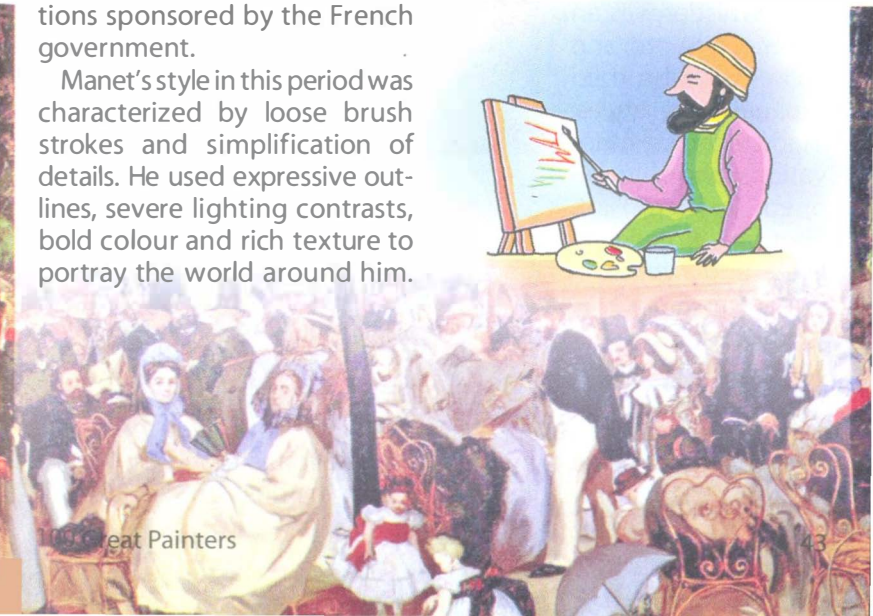
Edouard Manet

Edouard Manet was a French painter who was often identified with the 'Impressionists', and was influenced by them. However, because the Paris art world generally did not favour this style, he chose not to exhibit them. He was a revolutionary in that he broke new ground in choosing subjects from the events and people of his own time. However, he craved official recognition, and preferred to show his work in the more conservative exhibitions sponsored by the French government.

Manet's style in this period was characterized by loose brush strokes and simplification of details. He used expressive outlines, severe lighting contrasts, bold colour and rich texture to portray the world around him.

Manet's paintings of cafe scenes are observations of social life in 19th century Paris. Manet painted scenes from 19th century history, including one work featuring the execution of Emperor Maximillian of Mexico in 1867.

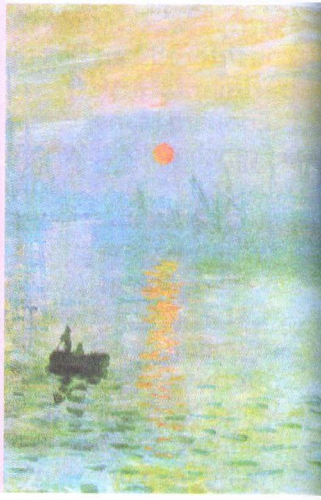
Manet's early works 'The Luncheon on the Grass,' and 'Olympia,' created great controversy, and served as rallying points for the young painters who would create the style known as Impressionism. Today, they are considered to be the genesis of modern art.



Impressionism

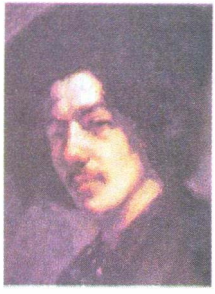
Impressionism is a style of painting that began in Paris, France in the mid-1800s. Unlike artists before them, the impressionists painted most of their paintings outdoors, and liked to portray natural subjects like trees, fields, and oceans. When impressionists painted pictures of people, they made them look like people you would see everyday. They often put more emphasis on the scene, than on the person or main subject of the painting.

● *Rahul Sharma*



Why is Whistler considered a great painter?

James Abbott McNeill Whistler was an American painter and etcher, who absorbed Japanese art styles, made technical innovations, and championed modern art. Though American, Whistler lived and worked mainly in Britain and France.



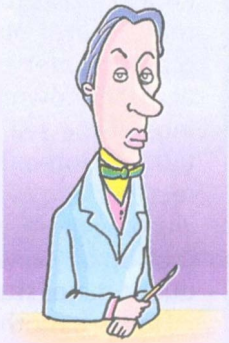
Whistler

Whistler had no easily defined style, and had spent most of his life traveling abroad - his work was multi-faceted. His earlier pieces were etchings, thanks to skills he picked up working as a cartographer. He painted portraits in the style of Realism, and later turned out abstracted landscapes. A strong advocate of 'art for art's sake', he believed in the importance of the painting, rather than in its subject matter.

Whistler's works have an exquisite charm. He is best known for his nearly black-and-white full-length portrait of his mother known as 'Whistler's Mother'. To sum up, Whistler exerted an extraordinary influence both on public taste and on future trends in British art.

Why was Edgar Degas different?

Edgar Degas was a French artist famous for his work in painting, sculpture, printmaking and drawing. His career was a long one, and his style, unlike that of most famous artists who worked into their old age, never ceased developing, always seeking out new means of expression and technique. His personal wealth gave him the freedom to devote himself to art, and his subjects were usually from his own background. Degas also painted portraits of his family and friends and a number of historical subjects, in which he combined classical and romantic styles. In the early 1870's, the female ballet dancer became his favourite theme. He sketched from a live model in his studio and combined poses into groupings that depicted rehearsal and performance scenes.



'The Dance Class' - A Painting by Edgar Degas

Degas is regarded as one of the founders of Impressionism, although he rejected the term, and preferred to be called a realist.

Degas's style, subject matter, and artistic sensibility set him apart from the other Impressionists of the time.

Why was Winslow Homer's work special?

Winslow Homer is considered one of the foremost painters in 19th century America, and one of best known artists to come out of the Civil War. He was a landscape painter and printmaker, best known for his paintings of the sea. Largely self-taught, Homer began his career working as a commercial illustrator. He subsequently took up oil painting, and produced major studio works.

Homer's mother was a gifted amateur watercolourist. She and her son had a close relationship throughout their lives with Homer's first teacher. His early works were mostly commercial engravings of urban and country social scenes. They have clean outlines, simplified forms, and dramatic contrast of light and dark, as well as lively figure groupings.

Homer also illustrated women during war time, and showed the effects of the war on the home front. He produced a series of war-related paintings based on his sketches, among them 'Sharpshooter on Picket Duty', 'Home, Sweet Home', and 'Prisoners from the Front'. After the war, Homer turned his attention primarily to scenes of childhood and young women. His later works include seascapes absent of human figures, mostly of waves crashing against rocks in varying light. Even today, 150 years after his birth, one sees the influence of Homer's watercolours in American art.

A Painting by Winslow Homer

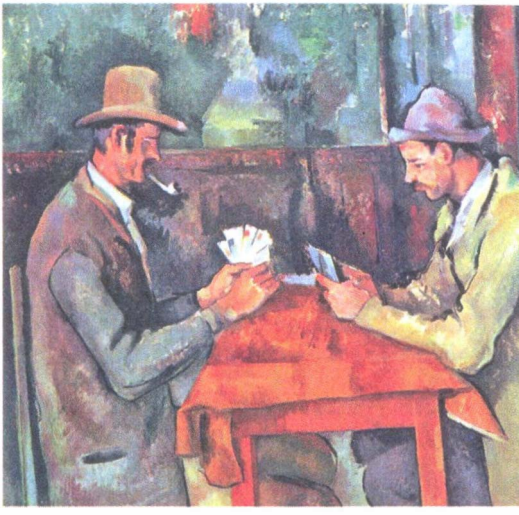
Winslow Homer

Why is Paul Cezanne considered to be one of the fore runners of modern art?

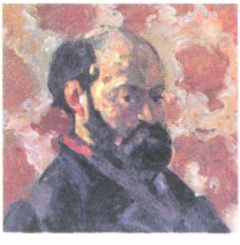
Paul Cezanne was a French artist whose work is said to form the bridge between late 19th century Impressionism, and the early 20th century's new artistic style, Cubism. His work demonstrates a mastery of design, colour, composition and draftsmanship.

Cezanne was born in the southern French town of Aix-en-Provence, on January 19th, 1839, the son of a wealthy banker.

Cezanne's boyhood companion was Emile Zola, who later gained fame as a novelist. Many of Cezanne's early works were painted in dark tones. Later, Cezanne shifted from dark tones to bright hues and began to concentrate on scenes of farmland and rural villages.



'The Card Players' - Cezanne's Painting



Paul Cezanne

Cezanne, who exhibited little in his lifetime, is regarded today as one of the great forerunners of modern painting, both for the way that he managed to put down on canvas exactly what his eye saw in nature, and for what he achieved through a unique treatment of space, mass, and colour.

Why is Claude Monet considered one of the founding fathers of Impressionism?

Claude Monet was one of the founding fathers of French Impressionism. His life as a painter did not begin until he was befriended by Eugene Boudin, who introduced Monet to the practice - then uncommon - of painting in the open air. He then turned away from the traditional style of painting inside a studio. Along with his friends, he went outside to the Fontainebleau forest to paint. But the public and art critics ridiculed these new paintings that looked so different from any conventional art style, and called them Impressionist. Though the name was given in ridicule, it stuck, and the style came to be known as Impressionist style.

Claude Monet

In 1890, Monet began to paint systematically the same subjects under different light conditions. The first subjects were the haystacks behind his house. As the light changed during the day faster than he could paint, he worked simultaneously on several canvases. In the end, he had painted twenty-five different versions of the hay stacks!

Many more paintings followed - the Rouen Cathedral, views of Venice or the Thames in London with the Houses of Parliament and other landmarks in London - often in the fog. At his home in Giverny, Monet created the water-lily pond that served as inspiration for his last series of paintings.

Why is Pierre Renoir different from other Impressionist painters?

Pierre Renoir was a French painter originally associated with the Impressionist movement. However, he differed from the other Impressionist painters in that he was more interested in painting individuals or family groups than in painting landscapes. His early works were typically Impressionist snapshots of real life, full of sparkling colour and light. By the mid-1880's, however, he had broken with the movement to apply a more disciplined, formal technique to portraits and figure paintings, particularly of women.

Pierre Renoir

Renoir began work as a painter in a porcelain factory in Paris. Later, he began to study painting formally. In the early 1870's, Renoir and his friends joined with other artists to form a loose-knit artistic circle now known as the Impressionist movement. He later grew dissatisfied with the formal restrictions of pure impressionism.

Renoir is perhaps the best-loved of all the Impressionists, for his subjects-pretty children, flowers, beautiful scenes - have instant appeal, and he communicated the joy he took in them with great directness.

Berthe Morisot

Berthe Morisot was a French painter and printmaker who was associated with Impressionism. She experimented with seascapes but her personal style developed most markedly during the 1880's- sketchy, pale colours and subjects from her own experience including women, children and domestic life. She was one of the first women to challenge established art circles.

● *Maneesh Yadav*

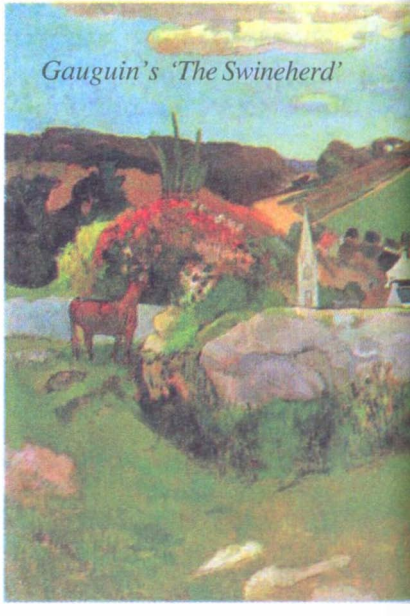
Henri Rousseau's 'Tiger in the Tropical Storm'

Why is Henri Rousseau considered the most famous untrained painter?

Henri Rousseau created some of the most popular and memorable paintings of the modern era. He never received any formal training, and his work therefore, has an

How did Paul Gauguin develop his own style?

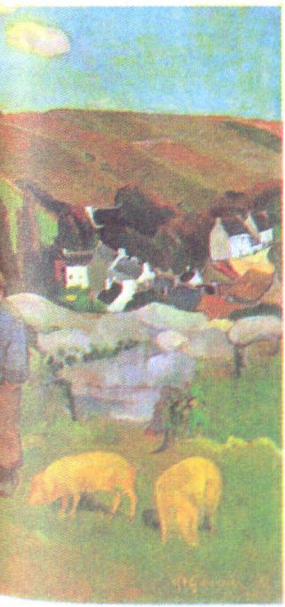
Paul Gauguin is considered one of the leading painters of the post impressionist period. Gauguin began his career as a stockbroker in Paris 1872. He attended the Impressionist's first exhibition in 1874, and was captivated by the impressionist style. In 1883, the bank that employed Gauguin experienced financial difficulties, and he found himself free to paint full-time. Much of his work during this period was influenced by the Impressionists, especially Pissarro. Later, he began to adopt his own independent style.



Gauguin's 'The Swineherd'

innocence and charm that made his paintings very famous. Ridiculed during his life, he came to be recognized as a self-taught genius whose works are of high artistic quality.

Rousseau is celebrated for his visionary jungle paintings which captivate the viewer with the lushness of their plant and animal life. The scenes are painted with incredible detail and precision. What is amazing is that the artist never saw the tropical scenes he brought so much to life, as he never left France! His exotic jungle paintings are the fantasies of a city dweller, constructed from visits to the zoo and botanical gardens, from postcards, books, and from Rousseau's own vivid imagination. Rousseau claimed he had 'no teacher other than nature', and his works have influenced later painters, including Picasso.



Paul Gauguin

Gauguin's break with the Impressionists came when he painted 'Vision after the Sermon', where he tried to depict the inner feelings of his subjects. This painting also marked the start of a new painting style that came to be known as 'Symbolism'.

Gauguin spent the last years of his life in Tahiti, an island in the Pacific Ocean. In Tahiti, his painting style evolved to reflect the Pacific Islands' primitive forms and brilliant colours. His striking images of Polynesian women rank among the most beautiful paintings of the modern age.

Raja Ravi Varma

The Prominent works of Raja Ravi Varma

- A Family of Beggars
- A Lady Playing Swarbat
- Arjuna and Subhadra
- Damayanti Talking to a Swan
- Draupadi Dreading to Meet Kichaka
- Girl in Sage Kanwa's Hermitage
- Jatayu
- Lady Giving Alms at the Temple
- Lady Lost in Thought
- Lady with Fruit
- Lord Krishna as Ambassador
- Lord Rama Conquers Varuna
- Nair Woman
- Romancing Couple
- Shakuntala
- Shantanu and Matsyagandhi
- Swarbat Player
- The Heartbroken
- The Orchestra
- Victory of Indrajit

Why is Raja Ravi Varma considered a vital link between Indian and European art?

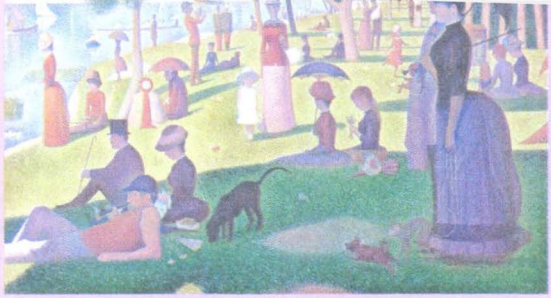
Raja Ravi Varma is known for his amazing paintings, which revolve mainly around the great epics of Mahabharata and Ramayana. He is one of the few painters who have managed to accomplish a beautiful unison of the Indian traditions with the techniques of European art.

At the age of seven, he started drawing on the palace walls using charcoal His uncle noticed Ravi Varma's talent, and gave him preliminary lessons in painting. At the age of fourteen, the Maharaja took him to the Travancore Palace, and he was taught water colour painting by the palace painter Rama Swamy Naidu. He was later given lessons in oil painting by a British painter, Theodor Jenson. His exposure in the west came when he won the first prize in the Vienna Art Exhibition in 1873.

Some Paintings by Raja Ravi Varma

Raja Ravi Varma is most remembered for his paintings of beautiful sari clad

Georges Seurat



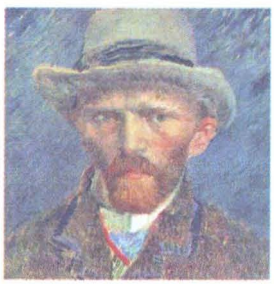
A Painting by Georges Seurat

Why will Georges Seurat always be remembered?

Georges Seurat was a French painter and draftsman. His large work 'Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte,' is his most famous painting. It altered the direction of modern art, and is one of the icons of 19th century painting.

Georges Seurat is the ultimate example of the artist as scientist. He spent his life studying colour theories, and the effects of different linear structures. His 500 drawings alone establish Seurat as a great master. He will always be remembered for his technique of portraying light using tiny brushstrokes of contrasting colours. This technique became known as pointillism. Using this technique, he created huge compositions with tiny, detached strokes of pure colour too small to be distinguished when looking at the entire work, but making his paintings shimmer with brilliance.

women, who were portrayed as very shapely and graceful. He is considered as a modern among traditionalists, and a rationalist among moderns. Ravi Varma traveled throughout India in search of subjects. He often modeled Hindu goddesses on South Indian women, whom he considered beautiful, Raja Ravi Varma was undoubtedly one of the greatest painters in the history of Indian arts. He brought Indian painting to the attention of the larger world ,and provided a vital link between traditional Indian art and contemporary art. He was known as 'A prince among painters and A painter among princes'.



A Self - portrait of Van Gogh

- Van Gogh and Paul Gaugin were good friends.
- Van Gogh suffered from temporal lobe epilepsy.
- At the age of thirty-seven, Van Gogh shot himself in a wheat field in Auvers, France, but did not die until two days later.
- Several works by Van Gogh rank among the most expensive paintings in the world. In 1987, Van Gogh's painting 'Irises' was sold for a record $53.9 million. In 1990, his 'Portrait of Doctor Gachet' was sold for $82.5 million, thus establishing a new price record.

Why is Vincent van Gogh one of the world's greatest painters?

Vincent van Gogh is generally considered the greatest Dutch painter after Rembrandt. His work was produced during a period of only ten years. It hauntingly conveys through its striking colour, brushwork, and forms, the anguish of a mental illness that eventually resulted in suicide.

'The Potato Eaters' by Van Gogh

Among Van Gogh's masterpieces are numerous self-portraits, and the well-known 'The Starry Night'. Although he

Vincent's Brother, Theo

Vincent's brother, Theo was an art dealer in Paris. He regularly sent money from his own income to Vincent to allow him to paint. Theo was devoted to Vincent, and christened his son Vincent Willem. Vincent relied heavily on Theo to support him throughout his life as an artist. Theo was devastated by Vin-

often suffered from extreme poverty and undernourishment, his output in the ten productive years of his life was amazing- about 800 paintings and a similar number of drawings. In keeping with his humanitarian outlook, he painted peasants and workers, the most famous picture from this period being 'The Potato Eaters'.

He sold only one painting during his lifetime 'Red Vineyard at Arles,' and was little known to the art world at the time of his death. However, his fame spread rapidly thereafter. His stormy and dramatic life, and his unswerving devotion to his ideals have made him one of the great cultural heroes of all times.

cent's death, and survived him by only six months, dying on 25th January 1891. They were buried side by side in the cemetery at Auvers. Vincent wrote regularly to his brother Theo and it is mainly through the existence of this correspondence that we know so much about him today.

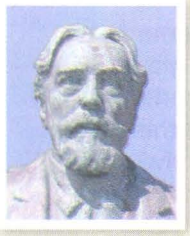
● *Ankit Kaur*

STAR FACT

Van Gogh's Masterpiece

The Starry Night was the masterpiece painted by Van Gogh while he was in a mental asylum. Van Gogh painted furiously, and 'The Starry Night' vibrates with rockets of burning yellow, while planets turn like cartwheels. The hills quake and heave, yet the cosmic gold fireworks that swirl against the blue sky are somehow restful. This painting is probably the most popular of Vincent's works.

Why was James Ensor different from his peers?



James Ensor

James Ensor, a Belgian painter, printmaker, and draftsman, lived in Ostend, Belgium, all his life. He began his artistic career as a portrait painter, but later rebelliouslyincorporatedcontroversial themes, colours, and shapes into his work.

Ensor's 'The Rower'

In 1884, he helped to found the art group called 'Les Vingts', but his preference for solitude led him away from the group. Ensor's focus on morbid subjects such as skulls and corpses in his early work incited criticism from the public. Ensor's most famous picture is 'The Entry of Christ into Brussels'. It is a very controversial and large painting, in bright, even garish colours, painted in a deliberately crude style. Most people are shown wearing masks that cannot be distinguished from their true faces. Ensor identified with the martyred Christ, and he used his own features for the face of Christ.

Although his paintings became more traditional later in his life, Ensor is noted for those earlier paintings because of their significance in the transition from the style known symbolism to surrealistic style of painting.

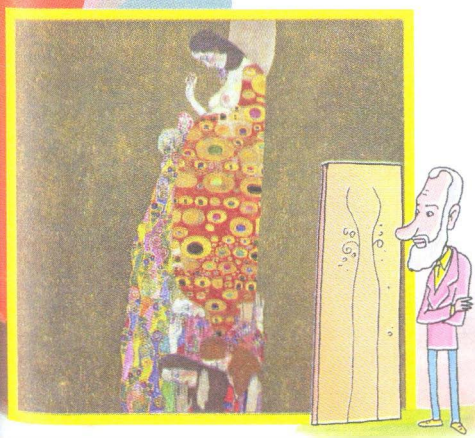
Gustav Klimt

Why is it said that Gustav Klimt was inspired by different styles?

Gustav Klimt was an Austrian symbolist painter, and one of the most prominent members of the Vienna Art Nouveau movement. His major works include paintings, murals, sketches, and other art objects, and his primary subject was the female body.

Klimt became one of the founding members and president of the Vienna Art Noveau Movement. The group's goals were to provide exhibitions for unconventional young artists, to bring the best foreign artists' works to Vienna, and to publish its own magazine to showcase members' work. The group did not set out to encourage any particular style - Naturalists, Realists, and Symbolists all co-existed.

Klimt's 'Golden Phase' was marked by positive critical reaction and success. Many of his paintings from this period utilized gold leaf. His painting method was very deliberate and painstaking, and at times he required lengthy sittings by his subjects. Art historians note a wide range of influences contributing to Klimt's distinct style, including Egyptian, Minoan, classical Greek, and Byzantine inspirations.

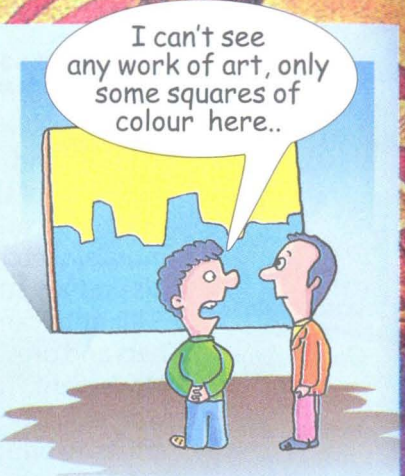


'Hope' - Gustav Klimt's Painting

What were the contributions of Paul Signac?

Paul Signac was a French painter, one of the originators of the technique known as pointillism, or divisionism. Under the influence of Georges Seurat, he abandoned the short brushstrokes of impressionism to experiment with small dots of pure colour, intended to combine and blend, not on the canvas, but in the viewer's eye. This was the main feature of what is known as pointillism.

Many of Signac's paintings are of the French coast. He left the capital each summer, to stay in the South of France in the village of Collioure or at St. Tropez, where he bought a house and invited his friends. Signac loved sailing, and he began to travel in



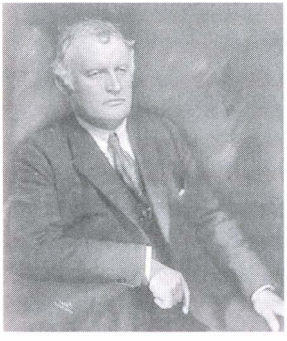
1892, sailing a small boat to almost all the ports of France, to Holland, and around the Mediterranean as far as Constantinople. From his various ports of call, Signac brought back vibrant, colourful watercolours, sketched rapidly from nature. From these sketches, he painted large studio canvases that are carefully worked out in small, mosaic-like squares of colour, quite different from the tiny, variegated dots previously used by Seurat.

Signac himself experimented with various media. He made etchings, lithographs, and many pen-and-ink sketches composed of small, laborious dots.

'Sunday' - Signac's Painting

Why did Edvard Munch become one of the most noted figures in modern art?

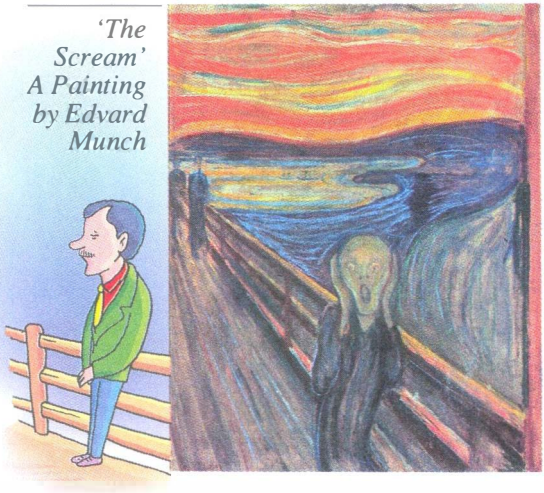
The Norwegian artist Edvard Munch is regarded as a pioneer in the expressionist movement in modern painting. He grew up in Norway's capital, Oslo and began to paint to express his grief after the death of his mother and older sister. His life was full of tragedy. His father and brother had also died when he was young, and another sister was also in a psychiatric hospital. Munch turned again and again to the memory of illness, death, and grief in his art. Munch attended courses in the painting at the Royal School of Drawing, and was instructed for a time by Norway's leading artist, Christian Krohg.



Edvard Munch

One of Munch's most famous paintings is 'The Scream'. It is often described as the first expressionistic picture, and is the most extreme example of Munch's 'soul paintings'. His work often included the symbolic portrayal of such themes as misery, sickness, and death.

Between 1892 and 1908, Munch spent much of his time in Paris and Berlin, where he became known for his prints-etchings, lithographs, and woodcuts. After 1910, Munch returned to Norway, where he lived and painted until his death. In his later paintings. Munch showed more interest in nature.



'The Scream' A Painting by Edvard Munch

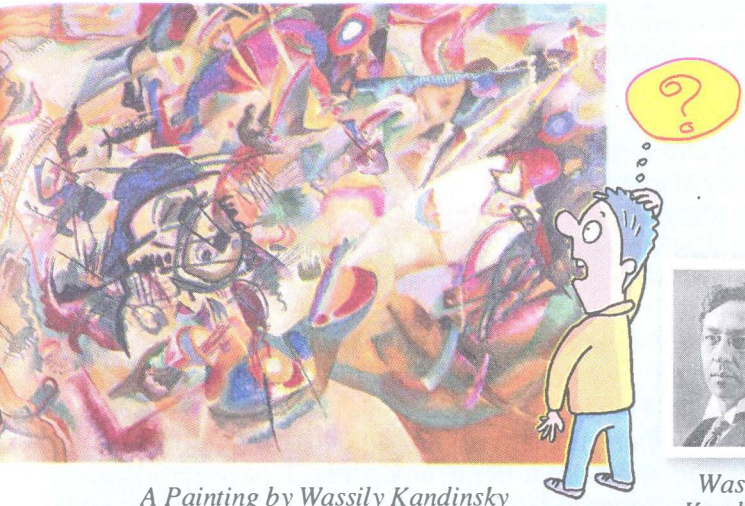
Why was Henri Toulouse considered to be a man of strong will?

Henri Toulouse was a leading artist whose paintings, lithographs, and posters contributed much to the development of Art Nouveau in the 1890's. He was also a harsh and witty chronicler of the gaudy nightlife and the sordid elements of late 19th century Parisian society.

Toulouse had to fight against many disadvantages. He had two accidents that crippled him, and also a speech problem. But he was determined to succeed as an artist. He haunted the dance halls and nightclubs of Montmartre in Paris, taking his subjects from his observations of what occurred on stage and among the patrons. He chose acid and garish colours and adopted a drawing style that is almost grotesque in its exaggerations.

Toulouse's career spanned less than twenety years. During this period, he created 737 canvases, 275 watercolours, 363 prints and posters, 5,084 drawings, some ceramic and stained glass work, and an unknown number of lost works. Toulouse is known along with Cezanne, Van Gogh, and Gauguin as one of the greatest painters of the Post-Impressionist period. He excelled at capturing people in their working environment, with the colour and the movement of the gaudy nightlife present, but the glamour stripped away... and therein lay his greatness.

'Alone'- A Painting by Henri Toulouse



A Painting by Wassily Kandinsky

Wassily Kandinsky

Why was Wassily Kandinsky's style significant?

Wassily Kandinsky was one of the most original and influential artists of the 20th century. His style of painting is significant because it played an important role in the development of abstract art. He used shapes and squiggles to symbolize his ideas and his state of the mind. This Russian born artist was also an accomplished musician, and he believed that colour and musical harmony are linked. He even claimed that when he saw colour he heard music!

Now considered to be the founder of abstract art, Kandinsky's work was exhibited throughout Europe from 1903 onwards, and often caused controversy among the public, the art critics, and his contemporaries.

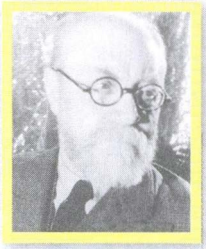
Kandinsky continued to further express and define his form of art, both on canvas and in his theoretical writings. His reputation became firmly established in the United States through numerous exhibitions.

Kandinsky continued painting almost till his death. His unrelenting quest for new art forms have provided us with an unparalleled collection of abstract art.

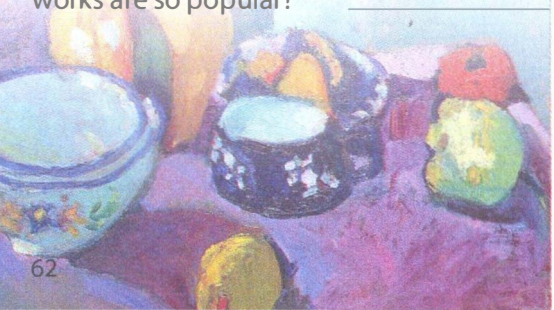
Why did Henri Matisse become popular?

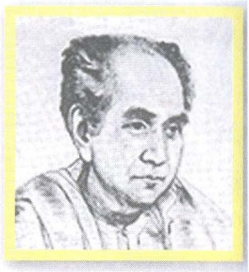
Henri Matisse is an artist who is often regarded as the most important French painter of the 20th century. His artistic career was long and varied, covering many different styles of painting from Impressionism to near Abstraction. Early on, in his career, Matisse was viewed as a Fauvist, and his celebration of bright colours reached its peak in 1917.

Do you know who the Fauvists were? They were artists whose style of painting flourished in France from 1898 to 1908. Fauvists used pure, brilliant colour, applied straight from the paint tubes in an aggressive, direct manner to create a sense of an explosion on the canvas. The Fauvists painted directly from nature as the Impressionists had before them, but their works were invested with a strong expressive reaction to the subjects they painted. Matisse's art has an astonishing force, and he produced some of the most powerful beauty ever painted. Is it any wonder then that his works are so popular?



Henri Matisse



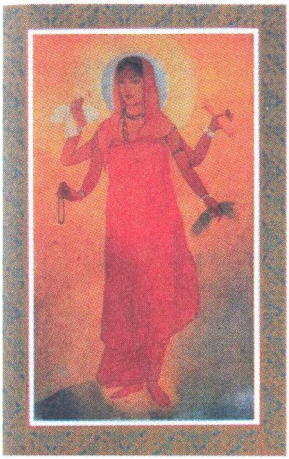


Abanindranath Tagore

What was the specialty of Abanindranath Tagore's paintings?

Abanindranath Tagore was the leading painter of Bengal. He countered the British Raj through his paintings. During his time, Western models of art were taught in the art schools under the British Raj. Tagore tried to modernize Mughal and Rajput styles to offset their influence. He succeeded, and his style was accepted as a natural Indian style.

Tagore devel-



'Bharat Mata'
A Painting by
Abanindranath Tagore

oped an interest in water colours while studying at the Calcutta School of Art. He created some paintings based on the life of Lord Krishna. These paintings show a strong influence of the Mughal style. In his later works he drew on Chinese and Japanese calligraphic traditions. Calligraphy is the art of decorative writing. Abanindranath Tagore was a nephew of Rabindranath Tagore.

Why is it said that Piet Mondrian changed the history of painting?

Have you heard of cubism? Cubism is a style of painting that makes use of simple geometric shapes. Piet Mondrian's brush with cubism at an exhibition in Amsterdam proved to be a turning point. He gave up painting natural forms. Exhibitions in Paris and Berlin gave him international fame. Stranded in Holland by World War I, Mondrian and Theo Van Doesburg started a magazine called 'The Style'. They were committed to purifying modern art and bringing it to the masses.

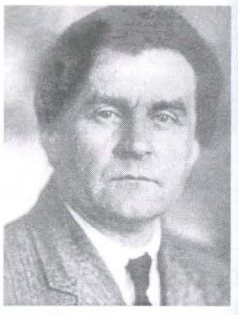
Piet Mondrian

Mondrian painted squares and rectangles in primary colours, on a white background, divided by black bands. He aimed for a spiritual experience. Though Mondrian grew up in a strict religious family, he rebelled and lived out the life of an artist - an artist who made history.

How did the political conditions in his country affect Kasimir Malevich?

Kasimir Malevich was a Russian painter. He painted simple geometric forms. His geometric square, cross and rectangle were meant to show the 'supremacy of forms'. These forms were associated with ideas of spiritual purity. This is Suprematism, and Malevich, the son of a factory foreman, created this new style of painting. 'Black square' and 'White on White' are his most famous works.

The young Soviet Union was a fertile ground for artists. Malevich was a brilliant speaker, and a man of great charm. Suprematism became the style for everything. Film posters, ceramics, and even textiles were designed in this style. However, in the late 1920's unfavourable political winds rocked Suprematism and Malevich. The State ordered that art should glorify political and social ideals. Malevich was marginalized, and even arrested once. In 1932, Stalin banned independent art movements and Suprematism was silenced.

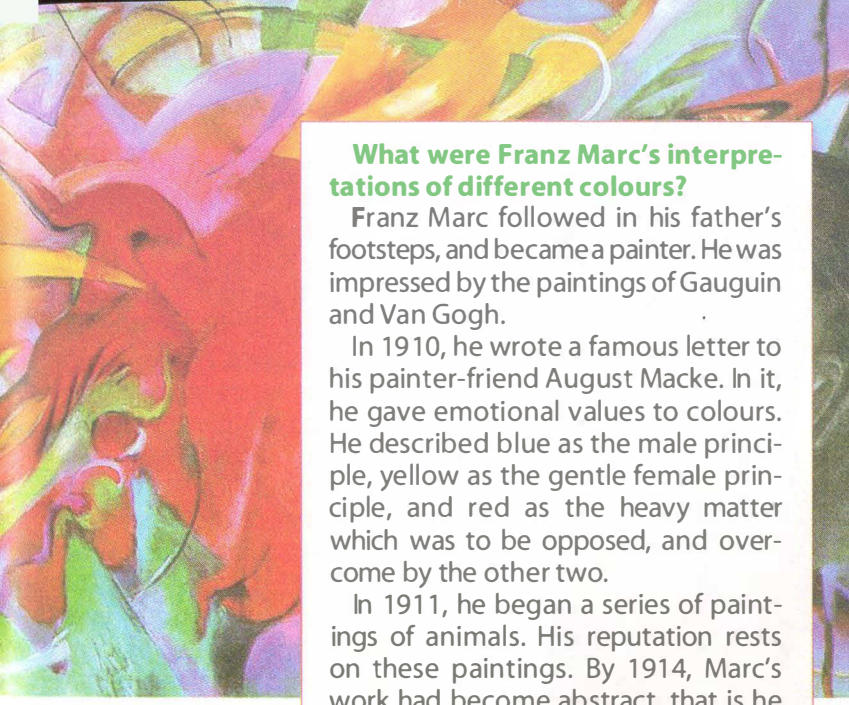


Kasimir Malevich

'The Rose Garden' by Paul Klee

Why is it said that Paul Klee was very deeply influenced by music?

Paul Klee's parents were musicians who passed on their love for music to him. Klee was a talented violinist whose music influenced his art. Klee's earliest works were pencil landscapes. 'Taking a line for a walk', was how he described his drawings. Dream like images made his paintings unique. His art combined strange and fairy tale like qualities. He gave



What were Franz Marc's interpretations of different colours?

Franz Marc followed in his father's footsteps, and became a painter. He was impressed by the paintings of Gauguin and Van Gogh.

In 1910, he wrote a famous letter to his painter-friend August Macke. In it, he gave emotional values to colours. He described blue as the male principle, yellow as the gentle female principle, and red as the heavy matter which was to be opposed, and overcome by the other two.

In 1911, he began a series of paintings of animals. His reputation rests on these paintings. By 1914, Marc's work had become abstract, that is he did not present reality as such in his paintings. During the war, he kept a notebook with drawings for his paintings. He never created those paintings. In March 1916, Franz Marc was struck dead by a shell splinter.

Paul Klee

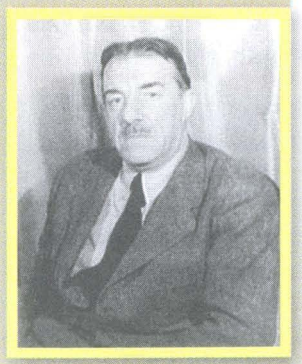
them poetic titles such as 'Two Men Meet, Each Believing the Other to Be of Higher Rank'. He also included letters and numbers in his works.

A trip to Tunisia turned him to the use of colour. 'Red and White Domes' was painted during this period.

In 1925, he published an essay on art theory called 'Pedagogical Sketchbook'. In 1931, he began teaching at the Dusseldorf Academy, but was soon dismissed by the Nazis. 'Still Life' was his last painting.

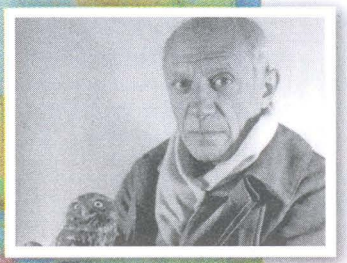
Why is Fernand Leger regarded as a giant of French painting?

Fernand Leger failed the entrance exam to a prestigious French art school, but went on to become a giant of French painting. In 1909, he was ranked as one of the three major cubists. Cubists used geometrical forms in their paintings. Leger gave importance to cylindrical forms, and his form of cubism is called tubism. He was a member of the breakaway Puteaux group of cubists. He saw action during the First World War. This changed his ideas about art forever. He discovered the beauty of common objects, which he described as 'everyday poetic images'. He began painting in a clean, accurate style. Leger painted objects simply, in bold colours.



Fernand Leger

In 1924, he made a film, 'Ballet Mecanique'. In it he compared machines and lifeless objects with humans and their body parts. In 1945, he joined the communist party, and his painting style changed again. He created large paintings celebrating the people in clear, flat colours. Acrobats, cyclists and builders all came to life in his paintings. He also produced stained glass windows, book illustrations, and mosaics. In 1950 he founded a ceramics studio at Biot. It became a national museum in1967.



Pablo Picasso

Why is Pablo Picasso one of the great painters of the world?

The one and only Pablo Picasso, created more than 20,000 works in his lifetime."Each time I had something to say, I said it in the way, I felt was right". The Midas touch of this genius fell on ceramics, sculpture, and print making. 'Picador' was Picasso's first painting - a bullfight scene which he painted at the age of eight. Art historians have divided Picasso's art into periods. Sad subject matter and cool blue shades mark Picasso's 'Blue Period', dating from 1901-1904. Most of his subjects during this time are shown as blind, such as 'The Old Guitarist.' Blindness was shown as an outer sign of inner vision.

The 'Rose Period,' followed. Picasso preferred pink shades during this period. Dancers and acrobats were among his subjects. His painting, 'Demoiselles d'Avignon,' shocked the public. The painting represented the female form by using geometrical shapes. This was later termed Cubism. 'Head of a Woman' and 'The Three Musicians,' are his most famous cubist paintings. In 1912, he created the art form now known as collage when he pasted an oilcloth to the painting 'Still Life in a Chair'. He developed the cubist technique from 1918 -1925 - the classical period in Picasso's art.

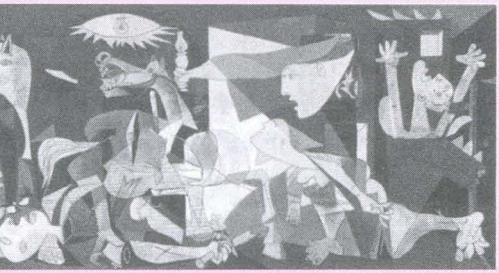
Picasso's First Word

It is as if Picasso was born an artist. His first word was 'piz', the Spanish word for pencil.

Guernica

Pablo Picasso's world famous monumental mural Guernica, is a depiction of war tragedies. It became a powerful image of the destructive forces that threaten human life.

Picasso painted it when he heard of the bombing of the Spanish town of Guernica, on April 26 th, 1937. Those were the days of Civil War in Spain, fought between right - wing Nationalists, and left wing Republicans. On that day, German fighter planes destroyed Guernica, where Republican



'Guernica'

troops were gathered. The Germans did this to support General Franco and his soldiers, who were conducting a coup against the Republican government of Spain. Guernica became a powerful symbol of the brutal Spanish Civil War. Guernica is not a colourful creation, Picasso banished all colours from this painting except shades of grey, black, and white. Guernica stands as a timeless image of violence waged against human civilization.

What were the contributions of Umberto Boccioni?

Umberto Boccioni was the leader of the futurist movement, which embraced the present, and rejected the past. Industrialisation, technology, and movement were the watchwords of futurism. Boccioni was born in Rome. When he was sixteen, he began studying art with Giacamo Balla. Balla introduced him to neo-impressionism. Tiny dots of various pure colours which became blended in the viewer's eye were used in neo impressionism.

Filippo Tomasso Marinetti turned Boccioni into a futurist. Boccioni believed that a sense of movement was important in art. He was the chief contributor to the theory of 'mobile sculptures'. 'The City

'The City Rises' - A painting by Boccioni

Rises' was his first major futuristic work. It showed the growth of the modern industrial city and the people living in it. In 1911, he was introduced to cubism. 'State of Mind,' and 'Forces of a Street,' are two of his important creations. Boccioni was killed in a riding accident in 1916.

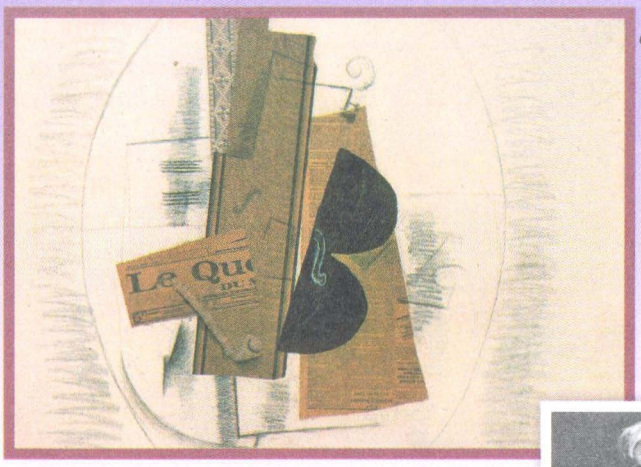
STAR FACT

Picasso's Full name

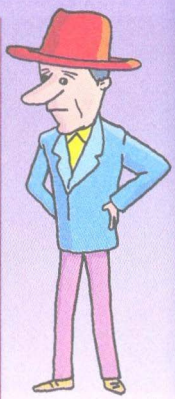
Long name, lasting fame, that is Picasso for you. Picasso's full name was Pablo Diego José Francisco de Paula Juan Nepomuceno María de los Remedios Cipriano de la Santísima Trinidad Clito Ruiz Picasso. He was named after various saints and relatives. The 'Picasso' is actually from his mother's name, Maria Picasso Lopez.

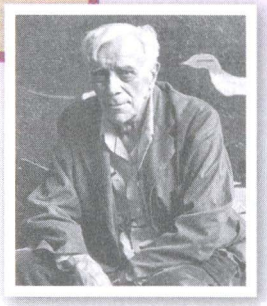
The Medici Family

The Medici family in Italy were enormously powerful and rich, making their money in banking and exerting their power by ruling Florence for over 300 years. Lorenzo de' Medici, who was in power at the time of Michelangelo, owned a collection of fragments of antique sculptures which were kept in the garden of San Marco. Lorenzo de' Medici allowed artists to study the sculptures, including, it would seem, the young Michelangelo, who was allowed to work there, staying in the Medici household. Medici undoubtedly saw great talent in Michelangelo, and helped his career as an artist. Lorenzo Medici died in 1492, and was succeeded by his son Pier de' Medici who continued the family line.



'Violin and Pipe' -
A Painting by Georges Braque





Georges Braque

What made Georges Braque different from his contemporaries?

Georges Braque was a house painter who became an outstanding professional painter. He painted houses during the day, and attended art classes in the evenings. After seeing an exhibition of the painter Paul Cezanne, he established a studio for himself, and began to paint seriously. He destroyed his first paintings after exhibiting them. All these were painted in the les fauve style which made use of brilliant colours. He met Pablo Picasso. They translated nature into paintings through 'cylinders, cones and cubes'. This was the origin of cubist paintings.

'House at L'Estaque' and 'Road Near L'Estaque' are two of Braque's best known works of this period. 'Violin and Candlestick' is Braque's most famous painting during his time with Picasso. In 1912, he and Picasso invented the collage style of art. Braque pasted strips of wallpaper on to painted canvasses. 'Still Life on a Table: Gillette' and 'The Violin' are

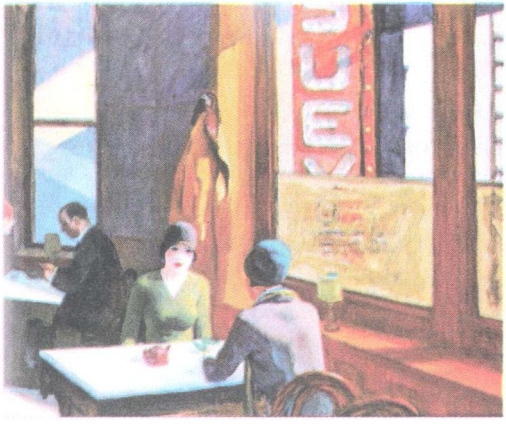
What was the relation between Nandalal Bose and Abanindranath Tagore?

Abanindranath Tagore was the painting guru, and Nandalal Bose was his favourite disciple. Nandalal Bose had art in his heart. Not surprisingly, he failed in his Fine Arts examination twice. Nandalal stumbled upon the paintings of Abanindranath Tagore and realized that he had found his future guru. The shy Nandalal took his classmate Satyen to speak to Abanindranath on his behalf. Abanindranath was impressed by Nandalal's paintings, and took him under his wings.

Nandalal started with the 'Indian Style' of painting before blazing an alternative style at Rabindranath Tagore's Kala Bhavan. The mural paintings of the Ajanta caves influenced him. He created a black and white linocut print of Gandhi in 1930. This print is a masterpiece. Jawaharlal Nehru invited him to design the emblems of the Government of India's awards including the 'Bharath Ratna' and the 'Padmashri'. Nandalal's paintings are widely regarded as India's best modern paintings.

among his important collages. After World War II, he took an interest in Zen Buddhism. His paintings turned into a search for the spiritual. Images of birds in flight dominated his later works.

Nandalal Bose



'Chop Suey' - A Painting by Edward Hopper

Whay was Edward Hopper different from his contemporaries?

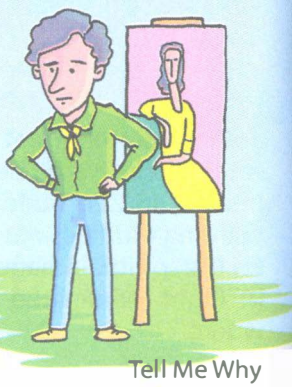
Edward Hopper suffered from spells of sadness. He painted serious figures, mostly women. The severity and the harsh lighting of his paintings, and the serious figures who are barely more alive than the furniture capture the attention of the viewer. His commonplace images convey the sense of loneliness that lives in the city. His paintings are true to life, they are landmarks of American realism.

'The essential element of imagination' gave life to his paintings. 'Automat' is a typical Hopper paint-

Why did Amedeo Modigliani become one of the most celebrated painters of the twentieth century?

Amedeo Modigliani painted in the shadow of poverty. He mostly painted portraits. A portrait is an artistic representation of a person, especially of the face or head and shoulders. The portraits of his friends are stylized, that is painted in a non realistic style, but they are recognizable.

Modigliani was also a sculptor. He sculpted elegant heads in his elongated style from limestone. Modigliani was attractive, with 'black hair and the most beautiful dark eyes', but drink destroyed



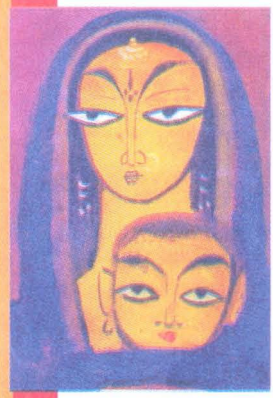
ing. Hopper studied painting at the New York School of Art. He visited Paris, but he was not affected by the art movements of the city. He married Jo Nivison, herself an artist. They had a studio apartment in New York. The marriage cut short Nivison's career in art, but Edward Hopper became one of America's best loved artists.

Amedeo Modigliani

him. He died at the age of thirty six. His distinctive style made him one of the most celebrated painters of the twentieth century.

Why is Jamini Roy known as an artist with his own identity?

Jamini Roy was born in Bengal during the British rule. He trained in the Western style of painting at the Government School of Art in Calcutta, but he turned to the living folk and tribal art for inspiration. The bold sweeping brush-strokes of Kalighat Pat influenced him greatly.



'Mother and Child' by Jamini Roy

In the 1920's, he began his first period of experimentation, with the Santhal dance as the starting point. He wanted to capture the simplicity in the life of the folk people in his paintings. He also wanted to make art accessible to a wider section of people, and to give Indian art its own identity. His work has been widely exhibited. Jamini Roy was awarded the Padma Bhusan in 1955.

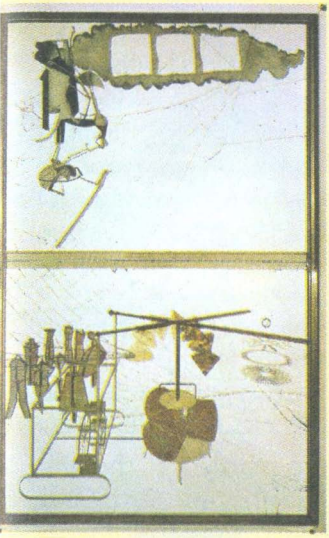
'I and the Village' - A Painting by Marc Chagall

What were the contributions of Marc Chagall?

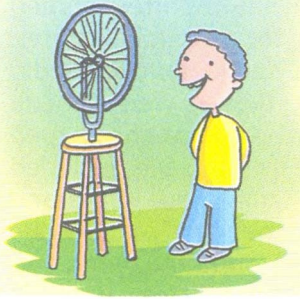
As a boy, Marc Chagall dreamt of a career in painting. He copied illustrations from magazines. At the age of twenty, he left his native Russian village, and entered the imperial School for Protection of the Arts in St. Petersburg. During this time, he painted 'The Dead Man,' - a funeral scene in his home town which also includes a man playing fiddle on a rooftop. He visited Paris. There he developed a personal style that combined memories of his native village and the elements of fantasy. 'I and the Village,' and 'The Drunkard' were painted in this style.

'Solitude' by Marc Chagall

He returned to Russia in 1916, and married Bella Rosenfield. He locked horns with the political leaders of Russia. His 'Flying Green Cows and Upside down Girls,' did not go down well with them, and they pressured him into leaving Vitebsk. He emigrated to Berlin in



A Work by Marcel Duchamp



Why is it said that Marcel Duchamp exerted a strong influence on twentieth century radical art?

Marcel Duchamp was an artist who opposed the laws of art. He made 'ready-mades'. Ready-made art took objects out of their normal setting, and showed them in a different way. A bicycle tyre mounted upside down on a kitchen stool is an example of ready-made art. Ready-made art was a success. It brought Duchamp to the United States from France. He co-founded the 'Societe Anonyme' in New York City to promote modern art.

Duchamp created a reproduction of 'Mona Lisa' by Leonardo da Vinci to which he added a moustache and a goatee, a pointed beard like that of a goat! His famous sculpture is 'Large Glass,' - a construction of lead wire and painted foil on two glass plates. It is also referred to as 'The Bride Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors, Even'. Duchamp turned to radical art after his painting 'Nude Descending a Staircase No.2' was rubbished by critics. His ready-mades which were considered anti-art are now being preserved in museums.

1922. He visited Israel, and began a new medium of art in stained glass. He designed twelve stained glass windows symbolizing the twelve tribes of Israel for the Jewish synagogue near Jerusalem. The ceiling decorations for the Paris Opera, and the stained glass windows of the United Nations building in New York city are among his other notable works.

A Painting by Georgia O'Keeffe

What made Georgia O'Keeffe a prominent figure among American painters?

Georgia O'Keeffe destroyed all the paintings she created as an art student, including her prize winning ones. She felt that they were 'unoriginal'. O'Keeffe studied under Arthur Dow. She called him the man 'who affected my start, who helped me to find something of my own'.

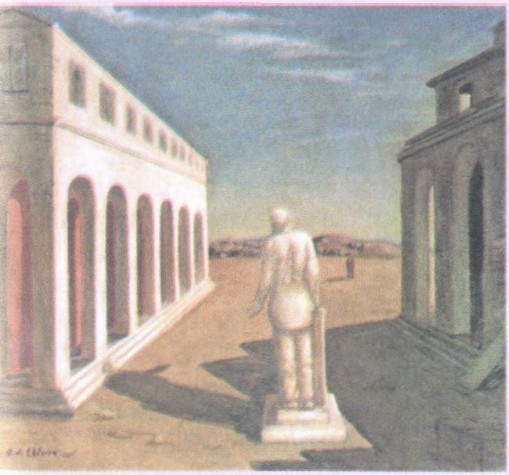
O'Keeffe painted numerous pictures in the abstract style. Her art did not represent external reality in recognizable forms. Her first major exhibition was in1922, at the Anderson gallery in New York. The show was called 'One Hundred Pictures'. All the paintings were unsigned and untitled since O'Keeffe believed that 'any personal quality in a picture should be signature enough'.

O'Keeffe married at the age of 37. 'Black Iris,' and 'Two Calla lilies on Pink,' were the famous pieces of the period. These paintings showed a close up view of a single subject. She found in nature corresponding images for emotional states. When O'Keeffe travelled to dry Mexico, flowers were difficult to come by, and so, she painted bones. Her new series included 'Cow's Skull - Red, White and Blue'. At the age of seventy, she travelled round the world and painted what she saw from the air - paintings such as 'Sky above Clouds'. Raised in a small family farm in the U.S, O'Keeffe rose to international fame for her semi abstract style of painting.

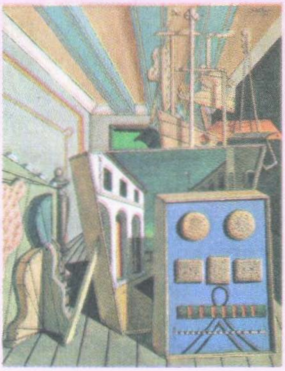
What made Giorgio de Chirico's work different?

Giorgio de Chirico was a poetic painter, born in Greece to Italian parents. He studied art in Greece. 'Still Life with Lemons' was his first painting. After his father's death, he moved to Germany, and attended the Academy of Fine Arts. In 1910, he shifted to Florence and was influenced by Giotto and primitive Tuscan painting. 'Enigma of an Autumn Afternoon', one of his first metaphysical paintings shows this influence.

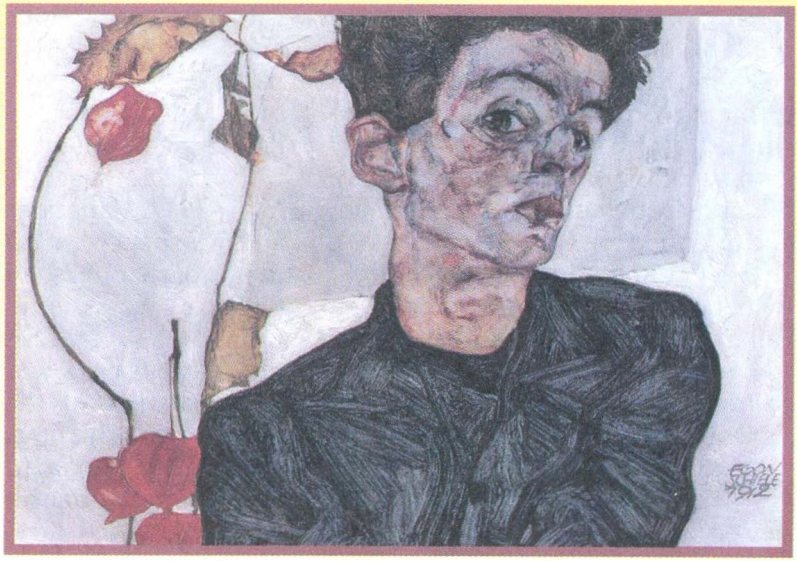
Metaphysical painting represents a different reality. Buildings, trains and dummies used to display clothes in shop windows are shown in metaphysical art. This style of painting is concerned with the unconscious mind. Metaphysical painting in its truest sense was born following Chirico's meeting with Carlo Carra at Ferrara in 1917. Magazines and newspapers round the world published Chirico's works, and praised his creative qualities. His work was appreciated by all the major artists of his time. In 1925, Chirico married the Russian dancer Raissa Gurievich Kroll. Chirico was also a noted writer. He wrote the novel 'Hebdomeros'.



A Painting by Giorgio de Chirico



'Metaphysical Interior with Biscuits' A Painting by Chirico



One of the popular paintings done by Egon Schiele

What were the specialties of Egon Schiele's paintings?

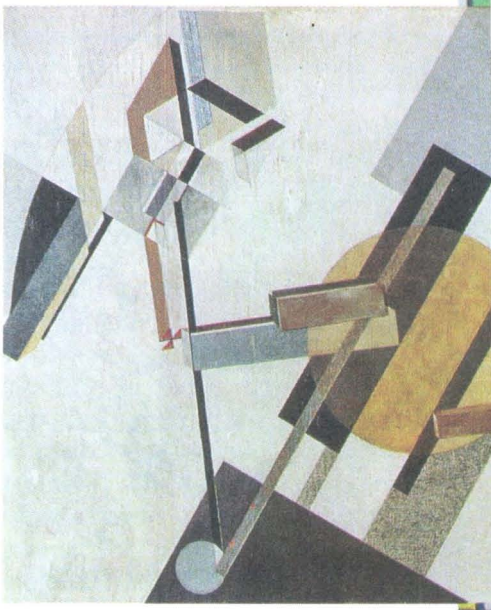
Egon Schiele started drawing before his second birthday, according to his mother. Schiele worked hard to develop his natural drawing ability, and drew the eyes of the world to his paintings. The intensity, twisted body shapes and expressive lines of Schiele's paintings make them special. The painter Gustav Klimt was his hero and his teacher. Some of Schiele's paintings were criticized, and he was briefly thrown into prison once.

However, the high quality of Schiele's paintings gradually won him appreciation. The Government of Austria sponsored him to boost the country's international image. Schilele did several portraits. In 1915, he married Edith Harms of Vienna. In 1918, when Edith was six months pregnant, the Spanish flu claimed her life. Schiele died three days later, at the age of twenty eight. During those three days, he created paintings of Edith. Those were his last paintings.

Why is it said that El Lissitzsky became a link between Russian and European artists?

Art unites. El Lissitzsky, the Russian painter, came to be a link between Russian and European artists. In 1909, the Italian Futurists published their manifesto in the newspaper, Le Figaro. A manifesto is the public declaration of beliefs and aims. The futurists believed in painting modern industrialized life. The artist Kasimir Malevich and his followers, one of whom was Lissitzsky, responded with ideas of their own.

Lissitzsky's achievements acted as links between artists in Russia and the West - between Weimar's, 'The Style,' and Constructivism. Art for social purposes was the ideal of Constructivism. It originated in Russia, and affected the development of art in the Weimar Republic. Lissitzsky was known for his



A Painting by El Lissitzsky

Proun paintings. Proun paintings expressed his vision of a world of physics inspired by modern spiritualist thought. He also designed Soviet flags. Lissitzsky set up exhibitions in Berlin. He also worked as a writer and designer for international magazines.

Mao/Marilyn

In the year 1971, the French edition of Vogue magazine took the reading world by storm. Its cover designer was none other than the great Salvador Dali. He superimposed the faces of two of the world's 'superstars'- Marilyn Monroe and Chairman Mao. Marilyn Monroe was a famous Hollywood actress, and Mao was a world renowned communist leader. Dali feminised Mao's features! Salvador Dali was a Spanish surrealist painter. Surrealists often combined different images without any sound underlying reason.

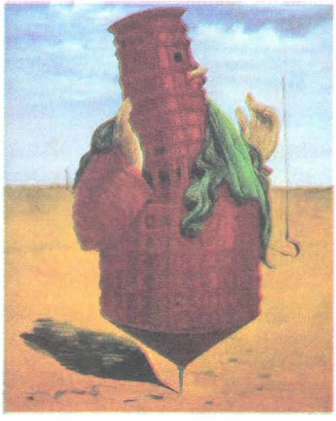
Max Ernst with his wife

Why is Max Ernst considered as a great painter?

During World War I, Max Ernst came back to life from clinical death. This comeback inspired Ernst to devote his life to art. He met the painter Paul Klee in 1919. He created his first paintings in that year. Along with J.T Baargeld and Hans Arp, he found the Cologne Dada group. The Dada movement made fun of artistic conventions, the unwritten rules by which art was created. Max Ernst was born near Cologne in Germany. He moved to Paris in 1922. There he illustrated the collage - novel 'Les Malheurs des Immortels'.

In 1925, Ernst developed the frottage technique

Max Ernst's 'Ubu Imperator'



Why is Joan Miro known as a painter of reallty and fantasy?

Joan Miro was born in the city of Barcelona. Though he hungered to be an artist, his father forced him into the stable job of a store clerk. The long hours brought on a nervous breakdown. While recovering, he enrolled at an art academy. He discovered the works of Claude Monet and Vincent van Gogh. During this period, he painted his first self portrait using bright colours. The success of his first exhibition enabled him to visit France.

He met Pablo Picasso there. In 1923 he was introduced to surrealism and adopted it as his style. An unexpected combination of images, and the element of surprise marked surrealist paintings. Miro drew on memory and the irrational to create 'the Farmer's Wife,' and 'The Carriage Light'. His dream like paintings show playful twisted animal figures, other twisted living shapes, and odd geometric constructions. The subjects are painted in bright colours against a neutral background. He combined the elements of reality and fantasy in his paintings. 'Dog barking at the Moon' is his most celebrated piece.

Joan Miro's Painting - 'The Tilled Field'

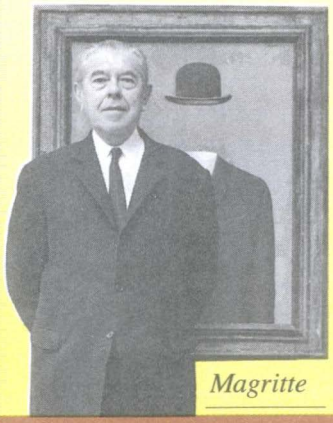
which made him famous. Frottage is French for rubbing. Ernst placed the work surface such as canvas or paper over an object with the desired texture, and rubbed the texture on to the work surface. He used this technique in his paintings until he started painting graphic novels. Ernst was thrown into concentration camps twice in two years. In 1941, he moved to the United States and settled in New York. Ernst received the first prize at the 27th Venice Biennial, the international art exhibition in Venice.

What were the specialties of Rene Magritte's paintings?

Rene Francois Magritte was a heavyset man, but he created dream like paintings that display a sense of wit and humour. Magritte wanted to see objects 'spontaneously brought together in an order in which the familiar and strange are restored to mystery'. He had an extraordinary gift of combining ordinary objects to create magical paintings. 'False Mirror' is his best known painting - a magnified eye fills the entire canvas, reflecting a cloud filled sky and its pupil is thought to represent the solar eclipse. It was painted in 1928. In the same year, he painted 'Threatening Weather'.

Magritte's Painting - 'The Empty Mask'

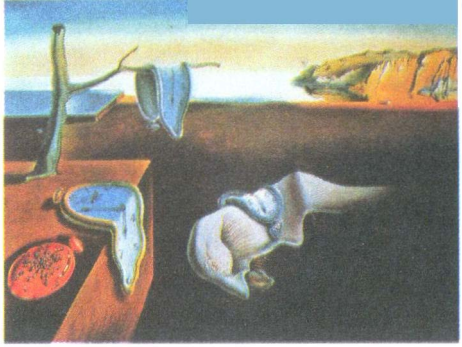
'The Therapeutic II,' shows a headless man sitting on a beach. His hat is suspended on the non- existent head and his body is in a bird cage which has two white doves in it. His 'Exhibition of Painting' shows a penguin, a bowler hat, and a cloud filled sky parted by a dark form. Magritte, a Belgian, marketed himself by writing to newspapers. Rene Magritte went on to become a great force of the Surrealist movement.



Magritte

What were the contributions of Salvador Dali?

Salvador Dali was a son of Spain. He cultivated the art world's most famous moustache, and experimented with different styles of painting. In 1926, he employed realism while painting 'Basket of Bread,' and cubism in several 'Harlequin,' paintings. In 1927, he discovered the style of painting that he is famous for. Dali focused on his childhood memories which were special to him, in his paintings. He called these memories psychological obsessions. 'Blood is sweeter than Honey,' was the first painting he created in this style. Dali painted objects in sad, empty landscapes. Dali described these paintings as 'hand painted dream images'. 'The Lugubrious' is painted in this style. So is 'The Persistence of Memory'. He was admitted to the group of Surrealists. Later, his political views caused him to be left out of the group. Publicity was Dali's lifeblood and he often played up to the media.



'The Persistence of Memory'

Salvador Dali

Dali's illustrations

Dali produced illustrations for the literary publications of the surrealists. He also drew pictures for 'The Visible Woman' and other writings of his own. Dali illustrated 'The Songs of Maldoror', a volume of poetry written by the French writer, Lautreamont. Lautreamont's writings influenced the surrealists. Dali's illustrations for the novel Don Quixote were in his own words, aimed at being 'extremely unusual'.

Dali's Scandals

Dali came on stage for a lecture dressed in a diving suit, during the International Surrealist Exhibition in London. Dali could hardly breathe. He was on the point of suffocating, but his cries were muffled by the helmet of the diving suit. The audience thought he was lecturing! Finally his wild actions made them realise the seriousness of the situation. He was released from his suit with a screw driver. Throughout his life, Dali attracted publicity by playing pranks and by his strange behaviour in public.

Why is it said that Willem de Kooning revolutionised American art?

Willem de Kooning revolutionised American art, but he was born in the Dutch city of Rotterdam. De Kooning dreamt of becoming a true artist in the United States. He hid in the ship 'Shelley' that sailed from Rotterdam to Virginia in the United States. There, he began life as a house painter. He moved to New York City a year later. De Kooning was commissioned to design a mural for the Hall of Pharmacy at the 1939 New York World's Fair.

De Kooning developed an abstract style of art. Abstract art does not attempt to represent external reality in recognizable forms. His first paintings, 'Pink Landscape,' and 'The Wave' were done in the abstract style. He met Elaine Fried, an artist and art critic in 1938 and married her five years later. His famous 'Women' series of paintings included 'Queen of Hearts' and 'Pink Lady'. De Kooning revolutionized American art with the new 'Women' series in 1952. The term action paintings were first applied to De Kooning's works in reference to his very visible brush strokes.

De Kooning's Painting Women - V

'The Liver is the Cock's Comb' - A Painting by Arshile Gorky

Why is it said that Arshile Gorky was one of the tragic heroes of art history?

Tragedy shadowed Arshile Gorky from the cradle to the grave. He was born in the West Armenian village of Khorkom. His mother Shushan, introduced Gorky to art even before he could speak. One hundred thousand Armenians were killed by their Turkish rulers between 1915 and 1918. Khorkom was destroyed. Gorky's family was forced to set out on a death march 150 miles north to the border of Russian Armenia. When Gorky was fourteen years old, his mother died of starvation in his arms. He fled to New York in 1920.

Gorky got a job in a rubber factory, but was thrown out for 'drawing on the job'. He took painting lessons and became a teacher at the New School of Design in New York. Gorky created paintings in the abstract style, influenced by Matisse, Picasso, and other painters of the Paris school. Alfred H Barr chose three of Gorky's paintings for a group exhibition of Modern Art. That was the turning point in Gorky's painting life. He painted his famous 'Night time', 'Enigma' and 'Nostalgia' series. Gorky married Agnes Magruder, a wealthy American socialite. But she left him after five years. A month later, he was diagnosed with colon cancer. A crippling accident followed. Gorky took his own life.

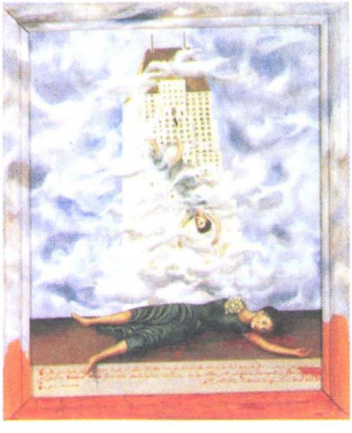
Frida Kahlo

'Roots'
A Painting by Frida Kahlo

Why is it said that Frida Kahlo's paintings depict her own self?

Frida Kahlo painted to free her mind from the grip of pain, after a bus accident left her paralysed. She painted self portraits for three years. Then she showed her work to the painter, Diego Rivera. Rivera praised and encouraged her. Her paintings had broad colour areas and included fantastical elements. Kahlo got back to her feet but, she was always in pain. She became an active member of the Communist party. In 1929, she created her famous painting, 'The Bus.' The painting showed the life of the Mexican people.

At twenty two, she married Diego Rivera, and they travelled together round the world. Marcel Duchamp arranged her show in Paris and the French surrealist poet, Andre Breton arranged her New York exhibition. Her Mexican identity shines through in her paintings. She



'The Suicide of Dorothy Hale'
by Frida Kahlo

'Head VI'- A Painting by Francis Bacon

What made Francis Bacon's artistic life sensational?

Francis Bacon painted images of terror and anger. His subject matter shocked the audience into realising the violence of the human condition. He created three abstract paintings titled 'Crucifixions'. His paintings were rejected by museums and galleries, and his first solo show flopped. Disheartened, Bacon lost interest in painting and took to gambling. Bacon created a painting titled 'Painting,' in 1948 and called it the 'first picture I ever really liked'. It seems to be a painting of a dangerous looking umbrella. Actually, Bacon had attempted to draw a bird!

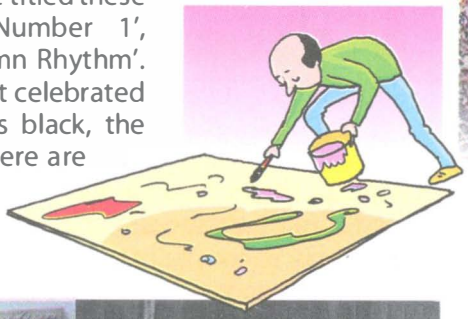
He had his first major solo show when he was forty years old. In this show, he exhibited his series of paintings known as the 'Screaming Popes'. The figures were horribly twisted and were painted in ugly colours. In the 1970's, he began to paint his friend George Dyer. Dyer's suicide provided the theme of his most sensational paintings titled 'Triptych' and 'May-June 1973'. Bacon painted the abnormal and the violent in his sensational artistic life.

drew from folk art and her personal grief to create her paintings. Kahlo depicted her own self in her paintings. The painting 'Broken Column' shows her wearing a metal brace, while her body is open to reveal a broken column in place of her spine. Her sorrow over her inability to bear children is revealed in 'Henry Ford Hospital'. It shows herself in a hospital bed surrounded by a baby, a pelvic bone, and a machine.

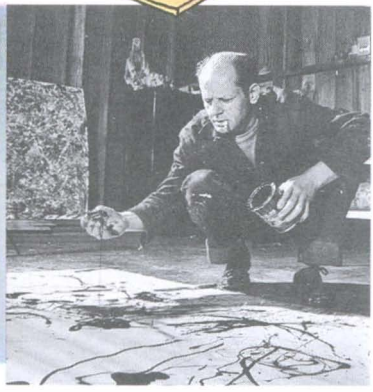
Why is Jackson Pollock known as a pioneer of American abstract expressionist art?

Paul Jackson Pollock inspired the movement known as action painting. He laid a canvas on the floor and dripped paint on to it. These expressionist art works had no fixed centre. He titled these expressions 'Cathedral', 'Number 1', 'White Cockatoo' and Autumn Rhythm'. 'Autumn Rhythm' is his most celebrated work. The primary colour is black, the secondary is orange, and there are touches of other hues. The action spreads across the canvas.

Pollock held his first one man show in 1943 in New York, and had a show of new works nearly every year after that. In 1956, he died in a car accident. He had traded two of his paintings for the car. Pollock was a pioneer of American abstract expressionistic art.



'Number 1'- A Painting by Jackson Pollock



Jackson Pollock

Pollock was born on a sheep ranch in the United States. He had lived in six states by the age of ten. Pollock developed an interest in Indian sand painting when his family lived in Arizona.

Why was Amrita Shergill referred to as 'India's Frida Kahlo'?

Amrita Shergill was a gifted artist whose life was cut short at the age of 28. She was born of Sikh- Hungarian parents in Hungary. Her mother was a Hungarian singer, and her father was an aristocrat. Amrita Shergill is known as 'India's Friday Kahlo' for the beauty and the depth of her paintings. In 1921, her family shifted to Shimla. She received tuitions form an Italian sculptor living in Shimla. Shergill moved to Italy along with her mother. There, she was introduced to the paintings of the Italian masters. Her paintings show a strong influence of the Western style of painting.

Amrita sensed that her destiny lay in India, and she returned in 1934. Mughal miniatures schools and the Ajanta paintings influenced her. Her famous 'South- Indian trilogy' paintings resulted from her travel to the south of the country. Shergill married her Hungarian first cousin, Dr Victor Egan, in 1938. They settled in Lahore city, then in undivided India. Amrita Shergill was the youngest, as well as the only Asian artist to be elected as an Associate of the Grand Salon in Paris. Her passion for colour and deep understanding of Indian subjects light up her paintings. The works of Amrita Shergill have been declared as National art treasures by the Government of India.

Amrita Shergill

Shergill's Paintings - 'Three Girls' (above) 'TwoElephants'(below)

What were the specialties of Roy Lichtenstein's painting?

Roy Lichtenstein was an American pop artist. His work was influenced by the mass media. 'Look Mickey' featured hard edged figures and Benday Dots. Benday dots are small coloured dots used to create different colours in comic books. He produced works with recognizable characters from gum wrappers and cartoons. His first one man show was held at Leo Castelli's gallery in New York. Lichtenstein used oil and magna paint in his 'Drowning Girl' and other well known works. Thick

Why are Thomas Gainsborough's paintings so delightful?

Thomas Gainsborough was born in England, and began drawing when he was very young. It is said he once sketched a thief stealing from a garden so accurately, that people recognized him as a man from the next village! Gainsborough is noted for his portraits, but before he started doing portraits he was a painter of landscapes. He painted many pictures in his lifetime- more than 500 paintings. About 200 of these were paintings of people.

Gainsborough became wealthy because the rich people wanted him to paint pictures of their families. Gainsborough

'Mr. and Mrs. Andrews' - Gainsborough's Painting

painted more from his observations of nature than from any application of formal rules. In his earlier portraits, he posed his models

outlines, bold colours and Benday Dots gave his painting the effect of a photographic reproduction.

'Whaam!' is his best known image. It is one of the earliest known examples of pop art. It shows a fighter aircraft firing a rocket into an enemy plane with a dazzling explosion of red and yellow. In the late seventies he created surrealistic works such as 'Pow Wow'.

His painting 'Torpedo... Los!' sold at Christie's for $5.5 million in 1989, a record sum at the time. Roy Lichtenstein was a fan of jazz in his younger days. He drew portraits of the musicians at their instruments. In his lifetime he jazzed up the art world with his pop paintings.

Thomas Gainsborough

in the open countryside, and this enabled him to indulge in his taste for landscape. These canvases are sincere and simple, and they are true to nature. His later portraits are characterized by the noble and refined grace of the figures, by poetic charm, and by cool and fresh colours, chiefly greens and blues. His landscapes are some of the most beautiful ever painted in England. It can be said that in the freshness of form, colour, character, and feeling, Gainsborough surpassed any other British painter.

'Landscape in Suffolk'- A Painting by Gainsborough

'Self Portrait with a Sunflower'
A Painting by Van Dyke

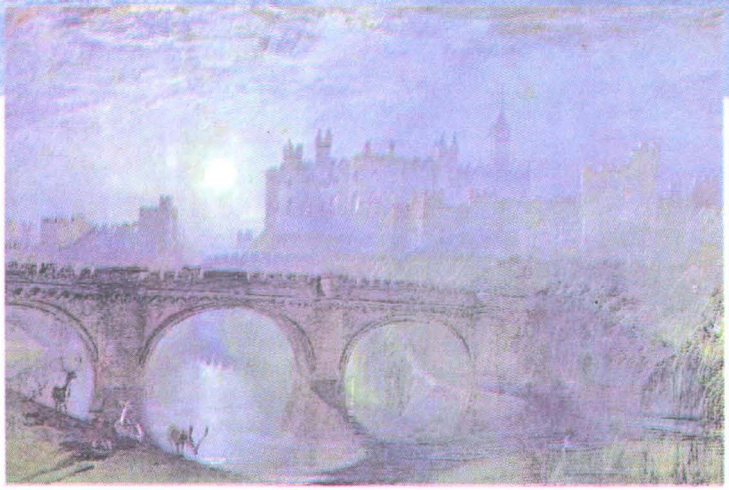
Why was Van Dyke considered one of the most successful portrait painters?

Antony Van Dyke is one of the greatest Flemish painters. He was an extremely successful portraitist and painter of religious and mythological pictures in Antwerp and Italy. He was also an accomplished draughtsman and etcher.

In 1620, Van Dyke went to London, where he spent a few months, and then in 1621, he went to Italy, where he travelled a great deal. He gained fame for the refined and elegant style which remained characteristic of his work for the rest of his life. From 1632 until his death, he was in England as painter to Charles I. Today, he is best remembered for his elegant representations of Charles I and his court. Most of his subjects were fine boned with slender figures, full lips and curly hair, it was almost as though they were all related in some way. His masterpiece is 'Charles I in Hunting Dress'. It captures beautifully the haughty grace of the king.

Van Dyke's influence on English portraiture has been profound and lasting. Later artists revered him, and he was an inspiration to many others until the early 20th century.

Antony Van Dyke



A Painting by William Turner

Why did light play an important role in William Turner's work?

William Turner was an English Romantic landscape painter, watercolourist and printmaker, whose style laid the foundation for Impressionism.

Turner's talent was recognized early in his life. Although renowned for his oils, Turner is also one of the great masters of British watercolour landscape painting. He is commonly known as 'the painter of light'. In fact, he felt that light was an expression of God's own spirit. One of his most famous oil paintings is 'The Fighting Temeraire Tugged to her Last Berth to be Broken Up'.

Other subjects for Turner's imagination were shipwrecks, fires, natural catastrophes, and natural phenomena such as sunlight, storm, rain, and fog. He was also fascinated by the violent power of the sea. One popular story about Turner is that he even had himself 'tied to the mast of a ship in order to experience the drama' of the elements during a storm at sea!

Turner left more than 19,000 watercolours, drawings, and oils to the British nation. Most of these works are in the National Gallery and the Tate Gallery, London.

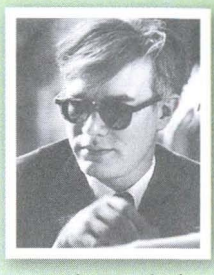
Why is Andy Warhol's name associated with Pop Art?

Andy Warhol is one of the most influential artists of the 20th century, and the central figure of the American Pop Art Movement. Pop Art is short for Popular Art. It is inspired by comic strips, advertising, and popular entertainment. Pop art can be any every day item that is drawn in a brash and colourful way. In this movement, artists created colourful images of the social figures, ideas and products of the time.

Warhol began his career as a commercial art illustrator. During the 1960's, Warhol began creating the paintings he is best known for today. Warhol loved pop culture, and he decided to paint what he loved. So he painted large pictures of Coca-Cola bottles, Campbell's soup cans, and dollar bills. He also painted pictures of celebrities.

Because he was creating pictures of mass-produced items, Warhol thought it would be fitting to mass produce the artwork. He did this by creating screen prints, rather than painting each picture separately. This allowed him to make many copies of each painting, but each copy was an original Warhol painting. He also started a place called 'The Factory', which was an art studio where he used workers to mass produce prints and posters.

Andy Warhol was criticized for turning art into a business. Many people didn't like the idea that he was just making copies of the same picture to sell and make money. Warhol believed in what he was creating though, and is known today as the 'Prince of Pop'.



Andy Warhol

A Statue of Andy Warhol

Why is L.S. Lowry considered a great painter?

L.S. Lowry was an English artist, who was famous for painting industrial scenes, and scenes of life in Northern England during the early 20th century. He had a highly distinctive style of painting, which often involved 'matchstick men'. These were figures of distant people in industrial scenes, using drab colours.

During his early years, Lowry lived in the leafy Manchester suburb of Victoria Park. Then lack of money obliged his family to move to Station Road, Pendlebury, where factory chimneys were a more familiar sight than trees. These chimneys became one of the subjects for his paintings. He also painted children playing in the streets, people returning from work, going off to work, gossiping on the front steps, incidents, market places and processions.

Lowry carefully composed his pictures in a

L.S. Lowry

painting room at home, and took great care over placing each figure. He used a very basic range of colours, which he mixed on his palette, and painted on a white background. Looking closely at the surface of Lowry's paintings shows us the variety of ways he worked the paint with brushes-using both ends- with his fingers, and with sticks or a nail.

L.S. Lowry died in February 1976, aged 88. His paintings depicting industrial life, show the brutality and sadness of people who were deeply affected by the results of the Industrial Revolution.

A Statue of L.S. Lowry

Why do we say that Edwin Landseer's paintings crossed class boundaries?

Edwin Landseer was one of the most highly respected and popular British painters of the 19th century. He was an infant prodigy, and one of the most prolific and famous artists of his period. Landseer specialized in painting animals, and developed great skill in depicting animal anatomy. He sometimes gave his animals human characteristics, and even used his paintings to make a moral statement.

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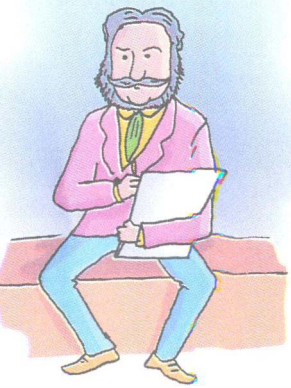


'The Monarch of the Glen'
A Painting by Edwin Landseer

Landseer's works were commonly found in middle-class homes. Yet his appeal crossed class boundaries, for Landseer was quite popular with the British aristocracy as well, and was a favourite of Queen Victoria. Landseer loved the Scottish highlands which provided the subjects for many of his paintings.

Did you know that Landseer was rumoured to be able to paint with both hands at the same time? For example, he could paint a horse's head with his right hand and its tail with his left hand, simultaneously! Isn't that amazing?

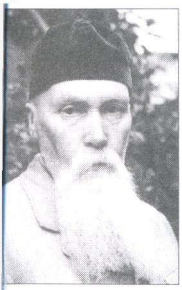
Why is Nicholas Roerich considered as a great painter?

Nicholas Roerich was a great Russian artist. He excelled in other ways too, as a writer, archaeologist, and philosopher. Born in St.Petersburg on October 9th

1874, he graduated from the Academy of Arts In 1897.

In 1901, Roerich became Secretary of the Society of Arts Encouragement. Later, he also came to occupy other positions like Director of an art school (1906), Academician of the Russian Academy of Arts (1909) and, head of the art union 'Mir Iskusstva' (1910).

The Museum of Roerich was opened in New York, in 1923, which also was the first museum of a Russian artist abroad. In 1924-1928, Roerich undertook scientific and art expeditions through the Himalayas, Tibet, Mongolia and in 1934-1935 - around Manchuria and China. In 1928, he established in India, the International Institute of the Himalayan Studies 'Urusvati'. The famous Indian film actress Devika Rani was married to his son, painter Svetoslav Roerich. Roerich died on December 13th, 1947.



Nicholas Roerich

CLARIFICATIONS & CORRECTIONS

It is our policy to correct errors, and present differing views and clarifications about the contents in previous issues. Please send in your feedback, mentioning the title and page number.

Mr. Manoj Tiwari has an add-on information to our November issue, 100 GREAT WRITERS. The world renowned English Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill, was an eminent figure in literature too. He won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1953. Churchill wrote 43 books which include History of World War I and II, 'The History of the English Speaking Peoples', and an auto biography 'My Early Life'

Mr. Rahul N., from Kochi points out a mistake in the December issue, ROMAN CIVILIZATION. On page 95, it was given that Attila, succeeded in sacking Rome in 410 AD. However, it was Alaric II, who sacked Rome in that year. Alaric was killed soon after. Attila was about to invade Rome in 453 AD, but turned back at the Pope's request.

Thank you readers for your valuable feedback.

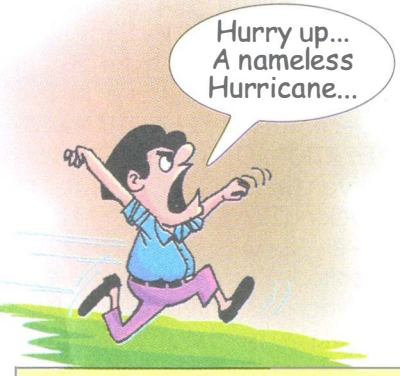
- Editor

Aren't there many little things you have wondered about, but didn't know whom to ask? Send us your questions, and we will give you the fascinating reasons behind the incredible mysteries of life.

Why do we gives names to hurricanes?

The world is a big place, and at any one time, there can be more than one tropical storm or hurricane brewing. Obviously, it is important that the folks reporting storms from around the world have accurate data.

In order to reduce the chance of confusing one storm with another, meteorologists decided to give each reported hurricane its own name. Before that, they were referred to by their latitude and longitude positions, which were constantly changing. Names are easier to remember, and less boring than simply assigning numbers.



Since hurricanes were first reported via radio, during World War II, the names they were given were from the phonetic alphabet-Abel, Baker, Charlie, etc. Later, in 1953, hurricanes began being named after women. In 1979, the World Meteorological Association began using both women's and men's names, so as not to slight either gender! Hurricane names are now assigned alphabetically at the beginning of the year, alternating between male and female names. Every five or six years, the names are recycled and used again.

● *Jacob George*

MANORAMA TELL ME WHY - 100 GREAT PAINTERS

Editor: Ammu Mathew Editor-in-Charge: N.M. Mohanan*

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TELL ME WHY

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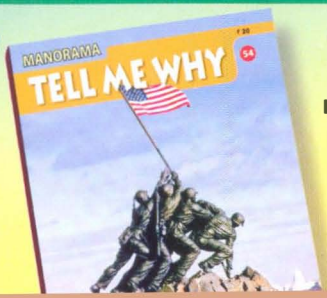

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